

U.S. grand jury indicts Soviet

NEW YORK (AP) — A federal grand jury on Tuesday indicted United Nations employee Gennady F. Zakharov on charges he tried to buy classified military secrets on behalf of the Soviet Union. The indictment charged Zakharov with three counts, including conspiracy, obtaining classified documents and attempting to communicate the material to a foreign government. If convicted of the most serious count, attempting to pass the information to a foreign power, he faces life imprisonment. The case was assigned to U.S. District Judge Joseph McLaughlin, but no arraignment has been scheduled, said Assistant U.S. Attorney John Gallagher. Court officials, asked whether Zakharov would be released to the Soviet ambassador to the United States, said the U.N. employee is expected to remain in jail.

Soviets say deal possible, page 8

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Red Cross team escapes death

BAGHDAD (R) — An International Red Cross team narrowly escaped death Tuesday when two Iranian shells fell close by as they inspected bombed residential areas of Basra, the Iraqi News Agency said. It said the team was touring crowded living quarters in Basra, Iraq's second city, which were shelled by Iran on Monday killing 17 people and wounding 42 others. It said the Red Cross team was accompanied by Basra Governor Fawzi Rasheed Abdullah and other officials who all escaped death "miraculously". The agency did not give the names of the team members or their number. It said they visited damaged houses and shops and also met some of the wounded in Basra hospitals. (Iran Tuesday denied that it had shelled residential areas of Basra. It said its gunfire was directed against "military and economic installations" in a Basra suburb).

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King phones Regent

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday telephoned His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, to inform the Jordanian family that he was doing well after undergoing sinus surgery in London on Monday. The Crown Prince conveyed to the King congratulations over the successful surgery and best wishes for his continued good health.

Israelis say ship intercepted

TEL AVIV (AP) — An Israeli navy patrol intercepted a ship carrying arms and supplies to Lebanon for the Fateh faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the Israeli army announced Tuesday. The ship, which was on its way from Cyprus, was intercepted on Aug. 30 in the Mediterranean off the Lebanese coast, said the announcement. It did not give an exact location and did not explain why news of the interception was withheld until now. A search of the ship yielded a large cache of arms and supplies, as well as a small racing boat, according to the communiqué.

Egyptian employee holds Italian consul hostage

CAIRO (R) — A disgruntled Egyptian cook seeking wages owed him by Italian employers forced his way into the Italian consulate in Cairo Tuesday and held the consul and three workers hostage for two hours before surrendering. Armoured cars and special black-uniformed commando units ringed the consulate in central Cairo but a security source said the gunman, identified by Egypt's Middle East News Agency as Mohammad Mahmoud Gadallah, surrendered peacefully. There was no immediate comment from the consulate but Egyptian Information Minister Safwat Sharif said in a statement that there was no political motive to the incident.

Coretta King snubs Botha

CAPE TOWN (R) — Coretta King, wife of murdered American civil rights leader Martin Luther King, delivered an apparent snub to President P.W. Botha on Tuesday when she failed to arrive for a scheduled meeting with the South African leader.

Group claims attack on Pinochet

MADRID (AP) — A spokesman for a group opposed to the Chilean government of President Augusto Pinochet on Tuesday claimed responsibility for the Sunday attack on the general's motorcade, a radio network said. Spanish national radio quoted exiled Chilean singer Patricio Manns as saying the "Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front" attacked Mr. Pinochet's motorcade.

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CAEU meeting opens with Jordan's call for more focus on agriculture

2-day conference on Arab food security to study proposals for wheat council and barter trade firm

By Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — Jordan on Tuesday called on Arab states to focus more on agriculture as a first step towards achieving regional food security and reducing the area's dependency on imported foodstuffs.

Addressing the opening session of the 41st meeting of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU), His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said that the Arab World was spending \$13 billion a year for food imports.

"This amount could double by the end of the century if the present production conditions continue to prevail in the region," Prince Hassan told the meeting, which is attended by Arab ministers of finance, economy and agriculture.

He urged Arab states to bypass inter-Arab political disputes in order to enhance efforts towards achieving food security and comprehensive economic integration.

The two-day meeting, which is organised by the Amman-based CAEU, will discuss the question of food security in the region and its implications, and means of

overcoming the problem through a joint comprehensive Arab agricultural plan.

"Agriculture is a prime basis for economic steadfastness," the Regent said, and urged Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories to stick to their lands "giving no chance to the Israeli enemy to uproot Arabs and replace them with Jewish emigrants from all over the world."

Prince Hassan proposed the formation of an Arab wheat council of producers and importers to coordinate production, marketing and storage and of an Arab trade company to barter agricultural products for agricultural goods or for non-agricultural products like petrochemicals.

The Regent also urged Arab countries to import a share of the total agricultural production of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip

in order to strengthen the steadfastness of the Palestinians living there.

Also addressing the opening session was Arab League Secretary General Chadli Klibi who said that food security was one of the "most serious" problems facing the Arab World.

Mr. Klibi, who arrived here Monday, voiced hope that the conference would "make decisions that could be implemented to guarantee food security," a basic factor for a comprehensive pan-Arab security.

It is the second time this year that Jordan holds a specialised conference on Arab food security. The Kingdom hosted an Arab Thought Forum (ATF) sponsored conference on food security last February and its recommendations were part of the main factors which prompted the convening of Tuesday's meeting, according to experts attending the session.

Also addressing the meeting's opening session on Tuesday was Algeria's Minister of Finance Abdul Azziz Khallouf. Mr. Khallouf urged Arab countries to chart a comprehensive pan-Arab food security scheme to achieve national security.

According to agricultural leaders attending the meeting, the

sessions' significance stems from the present situation of the Arab World's economies which is characterised by a sharp decline in oil revenues, a slow annual growth of 1.5 per cent, a widening food gap and an increase in foreign indebtedness with a slowdown in foreign trade.

The experts believe that an urgent solution to the issue of food security in the region is needed since the area's total commodity import bill has alarmingly increased from \$7.8 billion in 1975 to \$13 billion in 1985.

Mr. Klibi expected that the Arab food imports bill will reach \$60 billion by the year 2,000 if the agricultural sector maintained the same production level.

The three speakers stressed that food security could be achieved through optimising the Arab World's agricultural potential, improving a regional agricultural cropping pattern and reorganising the Arab World's investment in the agricultural sector.

According to Mr. Klibi, total Arab investment in the agricultural sector dropped to nine per cent in the 1980s from a total of 14 per cent in the mid-1970s.

Following are major excerpts of

(Continued on page 3)

Negotiators in last-minute bid to salvage

Taba talks and Mubarak-Peres meeting

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmad Essam Meguid said Tuesday "by a meeting between President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres was still possible if disagreements on a border dispute could be removed."

Mr. Meguid told reporters after a 50-minute meeting with Israeli negotiators on the Taba border issue that a meeting between the two leaders could still take place.

The idea of the summit is agreed upon... yes, it can go ahead if we clarify the two points," he said, referring to issues holding up agreement on sending the Taba dispute to international arbitration.

Egypt insists the issue be settled prior to a summit.

In Israel, Abba Eban, chairman of the parliament foreign affairs committee, told Reuters: "We haven't given up... maybe the summit will take place."

Mr. Meguid played down the likely impact of any failure to convene the meeting. "If we agree

today, the summit will take place. If not, it is not the end of the world," he said.

The two countries differ on the names of international arbitrators and on boundary markings at Taba, a 700-metre Red Sea beach held by Israel and claimed by Egypt.

Mr. Meguid said the Israeli team would consult its government before another round of talks with him late Tuesday night.

Asked if the Mubarak-Peres meeting had been postponed, David Kimche, co-chairman of the Israeli delegation, said: "We still have another session, then we decide."

Israeli officials and Israel Radio earlier Tuesday said the summit was cancelled, but the officials later said a last-minute effort was under way to salvage the planned meeting.

Israel Radio said Mr. Peres had ordered the Israeli delegation in Cairo not to make further concessions to Egypt regarding the border dispute and to return

home Tuesday.

U.S. special envoy Richard Murphy arrived back in Cairo yesterday after briefing Saudi Arabian leaders overnight on his latest Middle East mission.

Officials said he too might meet Mr. Meguid in an effort to prevent the complete collapse of the Taba talks. He was reported on Monday to have offered compromise proposals to both the Egyptians and Israelis.

Mr. Meguid, who appeared more optimistic, said: "We have not reached a dead-end. Let me put it on the record a lot of progress has been achieved. I don't think it is a difficult matter. It is a question of time... it is a delicate matter."

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia received Mr. Murphy after his arrival in Jeddah Monday night, Saudi Press Agency reported.

Mr. Murphy, who has also visited Jordan, Israel and Syria in his current round of shuttle diplomacy, routinely briefs Saudi leaders on his talks.

Soviets deny

accepting Stockholm compromise

STOCKHOLM (R) — A Soviet negotiator denied on Tuesday that the East had accepted a NATO compromise to secure agreement at the 35-nation European disarmament conference.

Oleg Grinevsky, who returned on Tuesday from consultations in Moscow, said reports that the Soviet Union was ready to give six neutral countries a role in monitoring East-West compliance with any arms control agreement signed in Stockholm were exaggerated.

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) diplomats had said one of the main obstacles was removed when Switzerland reported the Soviet Union had conditionally accepted the plan, suggested by NATO. The talks are due to end on Sept. 19.

The idea was for the six countries to provide planes to fly inspectors to check that military activities by either side were not threatening.

"We have never said we would accept the idea of neutral planes carrying out aerial inspections," Mr. Grinevsky was quoted as telling the Swedish news agency.

Shamir rules out

Israeli withdrawal

TEL AVIV (AP) — Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, in an interview broadcast Tuesday, said the current trend of the Middle East peace process was dangerous because it seemed aimed at a total Israeli pullback from the Arab territories occupied in 1967.

"It is clear to everybody that the so-called peace process offered to us is in fact a total abandonment of Judea and Samaria, the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights and Jerusalem," Mr. Shamir said, using the Israeli names for the West Bank and referring also to the annexed East Jerusalem and Golan Heights.

"What is under discussion is no longer a territorial compromise... but total withdrawal," Mr. Shamir said.

Mr. Shamir, leader of the right-wing Likud bloc, is to become prime minister on Oct. 14, trading jobs with Shimon Peres of the rival Labour Party.

Mr. Shamir's remarks, broadcast on Israel Radio, were made to a convocation Tuesday night.

He spoke in the midst of a flurry of diplomatic activity by Mr. Peres, who met with Moroccan King Hassan in July, has been trying to open negotiations with other Arab states and hoped to meet with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak this week.

Referring to the proposed Peres-Mubarak summit, Mr. Shamir warned Mr. Peres not to make too many concessions. "The national unity government cannot become the total-withdrawal government," he said.

Mr. Shamir's criticism echoed remarks made Sunday by Likud minister Ariel Sharon which triggered a minor government crisis.

Sharon said the government's peace initiatives were perceived by the Arabs as weakness and had encouraged the attack on Istanbul's Neve Shalom Synagogue in which 21 worshippers were killed.

Sharon's remarks led to a cabinet row, with Mr. Peres suspending the weekly government meeting and demanding a retraction from the former defence minister.

Sharon wrote a letter of apology late Sunday under pressure from Likud bloc to normalise relations with Mr. Peres so as not to endanger the hand-over of power to Mr. Shamir.

About 45,000 Jews have moved in to the West Bank and Gaza among 1.3 million Palestinians since the lands were occupied. Likud leaders have pledged to accelerate Jewish settlement in a Shamir-led cabinet.

Israel

accused

of killing

released

Palestinian

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — A Palestinian group on Tuesday accused Israel of assassinating one of its men who was freed in a prisoner exchange last year.

A statement distributed in Damascus by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) said Hassan Olayan, a member since 1976, was killed by a bomb near his house in Beit Lahia village in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip last Thursday.

It said the bomb was "planted by Israeli intelligence" soon after intelligence officers had told Olayan they would "liquidate him physically should he continue to exercise political activity."

A statement said Olayan's killing was the sixth such incident since the 1985 prisoner exchange between Israel and the PFLP-General Command led by Ahmad Jibril.

The Damascus-based PFLP warned Israel that such "crimes will not go unpunished."

According to the Israeli version of the incident, Olayan was killed last Thursday as he was apparently trying to dig up an explosive device he had hidden in an orange grove. His family said he stepped on a booby-trap while putting up a fence.

Israeli military censorship prevented publication of this report for five days.

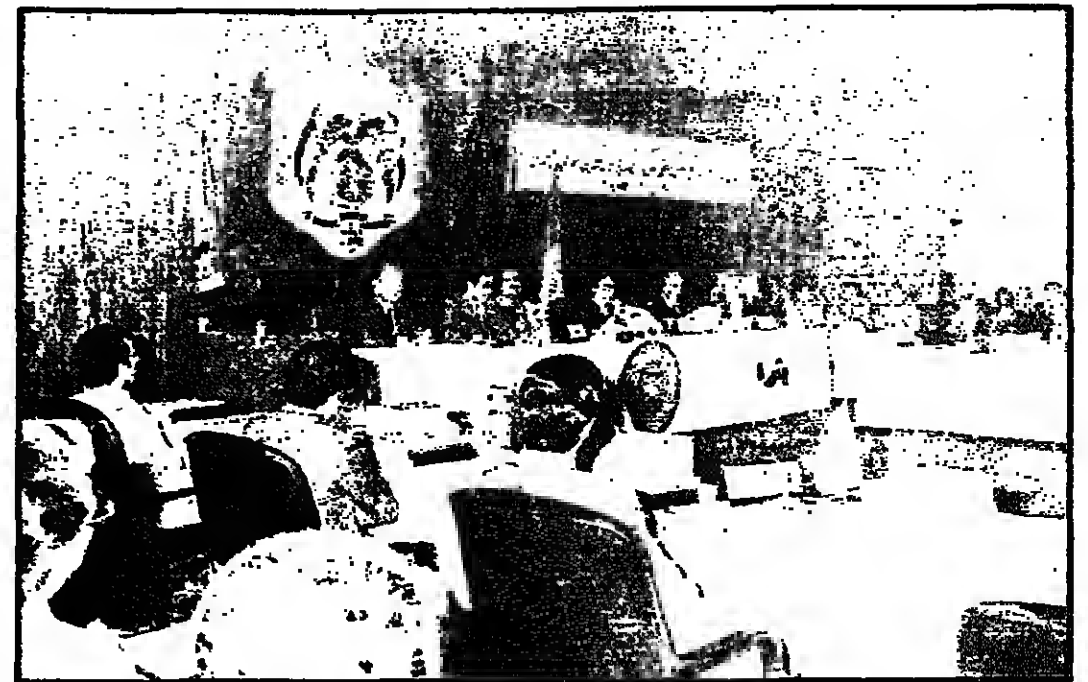
Palestinian sources told Reuters Israeli security forces clashed with villagers after the incident and Olayan's sister Nahla was shot in the leg while trying to take his body for burial.

The Israeli sources said Gaza police were attacked by Olayan's family and villagers when they came to remove his corpse for investigation. They confirmed that the young woman was treated in hospital for leg wounds.

The security sources said Olayan's uncle was killed near the West Bank town of Ramallah in a similar explosion last March.

Palestinian sources said the fact that at least four such cases had been reported this year aroused suspicions that Israeli Shin Bet security agents might be behind the explosions.

Olayan had been serving a 20-year sentence for alleged guerrilla activity when he was freed in the prisoner exchange in May 1985.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Tuesday chairs the opening session of the 41st meetings of the Council for Arab Economic Unity (Petra photo)

Regent, Klibi review Arab affairs

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent and Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi on Tuesday discussed current Arab affairs and means to bolster Arab solidarity, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

The talks, held at the Prime Ministry, were attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Petra added.

Mr. Klibi arrived here late Monday to attend meetings of the 41st session of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) which opened here Tuesday.

The talks between the Regent and Mr. Klibi followed a brief meeting between the Crown Prince and Mr. Rifai.

Upon his arrival here for the meeting, Mr. Klibi paid tribute to His Majesty King Hussein's efforts to achieve solidarity among Arab states.

Petra quoted Mr. Klibi as saying that the CAEU meeting was being held amidst "very difficult circumstances for the Arab World and as Arab countries struggle to ensure food security." "The Arabs have no alternative but to

join hands and work together to confront this issue and numerous other challenges, and they can do that under the umbrella of the Arab League which can help the Arabs forge any form of joint action through its specialised organisations and agencies," Mr. Klibi told Petra.

He said delegates from various Arab states attending the meeting would help their countries achieve integration in economic and agriculture and wished the meeting success in their endeavours.

Iraqis hit major Iranian targets and threaten to 'wipe out' cities

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi warplanes bombed economic and military installations in Iran's heartland on Tuesday in retaliation for shelling of Iraq's second-largest city, the military command said. The defence minister threatened to "wipe out" Iranian cities if Iranian attacks on civilian areas continued.

Formations of Iraqi jets stabbed into the Iranian northern city of Tabriz, raiding a refinery and a power station, said the command. Three military camps in western Iran were also attacked, it reported.

The raids, it said, were in retaliation for the Iranian border shelling of the southern port of Basra on Monday that killed 17 civilians and injured 42 others.

The dead included five children and five women. The injured included 16 children and 11 women, according to earlier Iraqi announcements.

General Adnan Khairallah, the Iraqi defence minister, warned that continuation of "deliberate shelling of civilian areas will force Iraq to retaliate in the same manner. In this case, we are capable of completely wiping out" Iranian cities.

Iraq has twice officially notified the United Nations to warn Iranian leaders against the shelling of civilian areas, said Gen. Khairallah in the statement distributed by the Iraqi News Agency.

Iraq would not be held responsible after that if it carried

out "deterrent measures to protect its citizens," he said.

He accused Iranian leaders of "insisting on the resumption of the war of the cities."

Tabriz has a machine-tool factory, tractor works and power plants as well as a refinery.

The minister's statement and reports from Iran that civilians killed in the Iraqi air raids Tuesday, have renewed the spectre of exchanged air bombing and missile strikes on Iraqi and Iranian cities.

The two blasted each other's cities for three months between March and June of 1985. The attacks subsided at the intervention of U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Karachi hijacker makes

failed attempt to escape

KARACHI (R) — One of the four gunmen held after the Karachi hijack made an unsuccessful bid to escape from hospital, Pakistani police sources said Tuesday.

The injured hijacker, identified as Hassan, hit a security guard on Monday and tried to get away but was quickly overpowered and secured to his bed, the sources said.

They gave no further details of the attempt but said the captive was then transferred from Karachi's Jinnah Hospital to an undisclosed location.

Police said they have filed a complaint against the four gunmen, who killed at least 20 passengers and crew on a Pan Am Jumbo jet on Friday.

The complaint, a preliminary

step before the formal charges laid at the end of a police investigation, cited criminal conspiracy, air piracy, multiple murders, possession of unauthorised arms and explosives.

The complaint was lodged after identification of the hijackers before a magistrate, the police said, but gave no details of where or when this took place.

The police sources said the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) was interrogating the four men. Agents had raided houses of suspected accomplices in Karachi and arrested several people for interrogation.

Pakistani authorities have not revealed whether the hijackers have disclosed any details of where they came from.

Pretoria hangs 3 ANC

men for alleged murder

PRETORIA (Agencies) — Three members of the African National Congress (ANC) were hanged for murder on Tuesday, a supreme court official said.

Andrew Zondo had been convicted of taking part in a bomb attack that killed five people at a shopping centre and Sipho Zulu and Clarence Payi had been found guilty of killing a fellow ANC member.

Court registrar Martin van der Westhuizen told Reuters the three members of the anti-government ANC liberation movement were hanged at Pretoria prison at 0500 GMT.

South Africa's leading anti-apartheid organisation, the

United Democratic Front (UDF), appealed to President P.W. Botha on Monday to reprieve the three.

"This hanging could only be seen as immoral and unjust," the UDF said in a statement and reminded Mr. Botha that he recently intervened to stop a trial of four South African soldiers accused of beating to death a black civilian in Namibia.

The three men hanged Tuesday brought to eight the total of ANC members executed in South Africa for fatal attacks since the organisation was outlawed in 1960 and took up arms to overthrow the white-led minority government.

Another

American

kidnapped

BEIRUT (AP) — The American director of a Lebanese school was kidnapped in west Beirut on Tuesday and the pro-Iranian "Islamic Jihad" organisation claimed they had abducted him.

Police and family friends identified the victim as Frank Reed, 55. He was kidnapped at 11.15 a.m. near the ruins of a gutted supermarket in west Beirut while driving from his home to play golf.

An academic colleague of Mr. Reed, who asked not to be identified, said that gunmen stopped Mr. Reed's car near the Spinney's supermarket in the Bir Hassan district.

An anonymous caller claimed responsibility on behalf of the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad for Mr. Reed's abduction.

"Frank Albert Reed, a new agent for the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) was arrested at noon today in a Muslim Beirut," the caller told a western news agency office.

"He was arrested after we found with him documents that incriminate him," the caller said.

The caller, saying he spoke on behalf of Islamic Jihad, an underground fundamentalist group which already holds at least three other Americans and three Frenchmen as hostages, preceded his statement with a verse from the Koran.

He said Mr. Reed's job as a director of the Lebanese International School (LIC) was "a cover-up for his intelligence work."

Lebanese cabinet agrees to close down illegal ports

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Lebanon's cabinet met behind sandbags on Beirut's dividing "green line" and agreed to close down militia-run ports in an effort to shore up the nation's war-ravaged economy.

The decision will go into effect this Sept. 30, Prime Minister Rashid Karami told reporters after the meeting.

Mr. Karami, a Sunni Muslim, said his cabinet is scheduled to meet again Friday to pursue national dialogue discussions aimed at ending the civil war.

As the session got under way, police reported the death toll of a mysterious fire that gutted a tire warehouse and a paint factory in Christian east Beirut on Aug. 21 has risen to 17.

The victims died one after another in hospital of skin burns that doctors could not treat, police said, adding that 32 other people injured in the fire remained in "very grave condition."

Police also said four militiamen died in hospital in west Beirut overnight, raising the toll of a two-hour gunbattle between moderate and extremist Shi'ite Muslim factions in suburban Beirut on Monday to six killed.

The cabinet meeting under Prime Minister Rashid Karami was held in the heavily fortified administrative headquarters of the mid-city horsecar track in the no-man's-land of the "green line."

A barbed-wire fence encircled the ground floor where the 10 cabinet members convened.

Sandbag barricades covered all windows.

Army and police sharpshooters manned rooftop positions on high-rise apartment buildings overlooking the walled hippodrome to prevent sniper attacks. Explosive experts examined vehicles at all approaches to the track to guard against car-bombing attempts.

Government spokesmen said the conferees debated Falangist and opposition versions for the projected covenant in order to come up with a unified blueprint for political reforms designed to ensure peaceful coexistence.

This was the second cabinet meeting since Lebanon's Falangist and opposition warlords empowered Mr. Karami's government last week to launch a reconciliation dialogue aimed at ending the sectarian conflict that has claimed more than 100,000 lives in 11 years.

The conferees also discussed measures to enforce a "comprehensive, lasting truce," an all civil war truce in Beirut, central and southern Lebanon, government spokesmen reported.

Police had said the Aug. 21 fire in east Beirut's Christian residential district of Fum al

Shubbak was caused by a close circuit that set the paint plant and an underground tire warehouse ablaze. The fire quickly spread to engulf four neighbouring apartment buildings.

One doctor at an east Beirut hospital, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the victims "developed skin problems as if they were affected by chemical warfare germs."

He said the Public Health Ministry should quickly transport the remaining victims for treatment in European or United States "Otherwise it looks like they will all die."

Police said a cease-fire mediated by the Iranian embassy in Beirut to halt gunbattles between moderate and fundamentalist Shi'ites on Monday held through the rest of the day into mid-morning Tuesday.

The fighting pitted militiamen from Justice Minister Nabih Berri's mainstream Amal Movement against gunmen of the pro-Iranian extremist Hezbollah, or Party of God.

Both sides blamed the flare-up on an "individual quarrel between unruly elements" and said Iranian mediation has "resolved the dispute and averted any serious ramifications."

Amal and Hezbollah have been vying for dominance of Beirut's southern suburbs as well as predominantly Shi'ite South Lebanon.

Syria insists on Mideast conference

By Edmond Khleif

Reuters

DAMASCUS — Syria has made clear it will oppose U.S. efforts to bring about Middle East peace talks outside the framework of an international conference favoured by the Soviet Union and most Arab states.

President Hafez al-Assad spelled out Syria's position when he met U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy here Sunday.

"Any other movements outside this framework will be useless and against the interests of the Arabs and the just peace they accept," the official Syrian News Agency SANA quoted Mr. Assad as saying.

Mr. Murphy has been shuttling between Egypt and Israel to help the United States' main Middle East allies clear the way for a summit meeting, the first, between Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

He has also tried, apparently without success, to involve Jordan in U.S. moves to unblock the stalled Middle East process when Mr. Mubarak and Peres eventually meet.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Jordan, like Syria, favours a United Nations-sponsored Middle East conference of all parties concerned and the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

Syria's public stand came as no surprise. It has consistently opposed one-to-one talks and what it calls partial solutions.

Like most Arab states, it broke with Cairo over the latter's 1979 peace treaty with Israel, and last month it severed ties with Morocco over King Hassan's talks with Peres.

Mr. Murphy's current Middle East trip follows visits to the region by Soviet envoys to impress upon Arab leaders backing rival Palestinian factions that unity within the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is a precondition to the holding of such a conference.

The United States and Israel refuse to talk to the PLO.

Washington says the PLO must first unequivocally recognise Israel, but Arab diplomats in Damascus say the Kremlin suspects the United States will use Palestinian divisions as a pretext to deny the PLO a role in any peace talks.

Which Palestinians acceptable to Arab states would then attend the talks is unclear. All Arab states recognise the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians, although not all accept Yasser Arafat as PLO chairman.

Syria expelled Mr. Arafat in 1983, and Palestinian talk of a rapprochement with Damascus has so far come to little.

Saudis deny report of \$3b loan to Sudan

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Saudi Arabia has denied reports that it was to provide Sudan with a \$3 billion facility over the next three years.

An official of the Saudi Ministry of Finance and National Economy dismissed as untrue reports in the Sudanese newspaper Sudan Times and the Abu Dhabi daily Al Ittihad about the kingdom planning to sign a three-year agreement to provide the African state with the purported loan.

The official, who was not identified, made the denial in a statement to the Saudi Press Agency.

The two newspapers had claimed that an agreement in principle was reached between King Fahd and Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq al Mahdi for \$1 billion to be paid Sudan annually over three years. They said that 30 per cent of the \$3 billion was to be paid in cash and 70 per cent in bartered commodities.

"What was reported in the two papers has not been discussed or agreed upon, and there is no truth to it," the agency quoted the official as saying.

The two papers also claimed that the alleged agreement would be finalised during an upcoming visit to the Saudi Arabia by Sudan's Finance Minister Bashir Omar.

Al Ittihad added without elaborating that Saudi Arabia had also agreed to extend \$200 million to "partially cover the needs of the Sudanese Armed Forces and medicine production projects."

Saudi Arabia is Sudan's main financial backer.

Tehran to execute three held for Qom car blast

TEHRAN (R) — Three men held responsible for a car bomb explosion in the Iranian holy city of Qom last month will be executed next week, Iran's top internal security official said in remarks published Tuesday.

"To carry out the rulings of Islam and as a lesson to others, Qassas (punishment) will be applied against them before execution," Intelligence Minister Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahri was quoted by the Islamic Republic newspaper as saying.

Mr. Reyshahri said last month that three men had been arrested for bringing explosives from Iraq and planting the bomb, which killed 13 people and injured 100, and would be executed at the site of the explosion.

He said the men — Ismaeel Noori, Soleiman Farhadi and Mohammad Veissi — had carried out at least four other bombings in Qom and Tehran. There has been no report of a trial.

Qassas, in force in Iran, allows victims of physical injuries under certain circumstances to inflict a similar injury on the culprit.

"Persons who have lost limbs, ears, eyes, etc., in these bombings have the right to demand Qassas. I hope the judiciary will do it," Mr. Reyshahri said.

Judicial council spokesman Morteza Moqtadaei meanwhile said a third man would be cut off in public in Tehran soon, the second time such a penalty has been inflicted in the capital.

"The hand of a medic (hoarder) who has deposited millions of dollars in his foreign bank account will soon be severed in public by the Tehran prosecutor's office," Moqtadaei said, according to Islamic Republic.

Four fingers of the right hand of a burglar were cut off by an electric guillotine in a south Tehran park in June.

Kurds claim new Turkish raid on Iraqi villages

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Kurdish rebels claimed Tuesday Turkish forces have stepped up cross-border attacks against Kurdish strongholds in northern Iraq, inflicting "considerable" casualties among civilians.

The claim came one day after a band of 11 Kurdish militants carrying bombs and grenades briefly occupied the Iraqi Airways office in Paris to dramatise their quest for an autonomous state for 15 million Kurds.

A spokesman for the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) told the Associated Press in Nicosia by telephone that a Turkish commando unit infiltrated the border with Iraq at Uri and engaged Kurdish rebels in heavy fighting Saturday.

Since then, the spokesman said, Kurdish villages in the provinces of Amadia, Zakho and Irbil have become a regular target of long-range artillery shelling.

The spokesman, who refused to be identified, said the shelling was particularly intense on Sunday and inflicted "considerable casualties among civilians."

A Turkish crackdown on Kurdish rebels has escalated dramatically in the past month after 12 Turkish soldiers were killed in south eastern Hakkari province on Aug. 12.

Kurdish rebels have since claimed Ankara has launched several other attacks. But there has been no independent confirmation.

Last weekend's alleged infiltration followed an attack Thursday night on three villages in east and south east Turkey in which three people were killed. Turkish authorities blamed Kurdish intensified attacks.

Kurds live in northern Iraq and north west Iran where the borders of the two countries meet with Turkey.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bomb found outside home of Libyan exiles

ROME (R) — A bomb was found during the night outside a building inhabited by several Libyan exile families in Rome, police said. Experts defused the small device, found in a bag with a stolen, 38-calibre pistol near the main door of the building after anonymous telephone calls to a newspaper and a news agency.

Qadhafi: Church subjugating Africa

LONDON (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has urged Muslims in Uganda to convert non-Muslims to Islam because he said the Christian Church was trying "to subjugate the African continent" and propagate colonialism. Libyan radio reported Tuesday, "Christianity is not an African faith," the radio quoted Col. Qadhafi as telling Muslim leaders in Uganda, where he arrived last Friday after attending the non-aligned summit conference in Harare. The radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said he told members of the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs and other Muslim leaders that it was their duty to defend the Ugandan revolution led by President Yoweri Museveni. Muslims in Uganda had now gained equal rights after they were subjected to oppression by previous governments with "support from the Christian Church outside Africa and from neighbouring countries," he said.

2 Britons go on trial in Dubai

DUBAI (R) — Two young Britons have gone on trial in the Gulf emirate of Dubai accused of murdering an Indian security guard, a defence lawyer said Tuesday. Mark Spalding, 19, of Jarrow, and Michael Brown, 22, of Sutton Coldfield, are accused of premeditated murder in the June 16 death of Konia Bruni Jonbat, 32. The prosecution charges that the two killed Jonbat by running him over in their car when he refused to enter into the housing compound where he worked. Adel Habib of the Dubai law firm Adel Habib and Muhammad Rifa'i, which is representing Brown, told Reuters the two pleaded innocent at a first hearing Monday. The trial was adjourned until Sept. 22 to allow the prosecution to present more evidence, he said. Under United Arab Emirates (UAE) law, premeditated murder carries the death penalty.

3 held for drug trafficking

LARNACA, Cyprus (AP) — A Lebanese man, his Norwegian girlfriend and a Cypriot arrested for drug trafficking were ordered held in police custody for eight days by a Larnaca court Tuesday while police complete investigations. The Lebanese was identified as Kamel Mohammad Said Kabbara, 24. His Norwegian girlfriend was named as Siri Ruth Paulsen, 21, and the Cypriot as Charalambos Georgiou, 31. Police prosecutor Gregoris Ioannou told the court Kabbara and Paulsen were arrested Monday when police found 50 grammes of cocaine in a cupboard during a search of their apartment. Kabbara admitted in a statement he had been selling cocaine to Georgiou, who was also arrested. Ioannou said.

Mzali 'slipped' into Algeria

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) — Mohammed Mzali, Tunisia's premier from April 1980 until he was sacked in July by President Habib Bourguiba, crossed secretly into Algeria and the people who helped him have been arrested, official sources said Monday. Mr. Bourguiba, 83, ordered a judicial investigation of Mr. Mzali "relative to all of the circumstances surrounding the departure abroad without authorisation of the former premier who crossed the border clandestinely." The president also removed Mr. Mzali from the ruling Destourian Socialist Party and ordered the lifting of his parliamentary immunity in order to take "judicial action" against him.

Kuwait, E. Germany to improve ties

EAST BERLIN (R) — East German Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer and Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah al Ahmad al Sabah have resolved to improve political relations between their two countries, the official ADN news agency said. ADN said Sheikh Sabah, who arrived here Monday on an official visit, praised what he called East German support for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people in the Middle East. He said both sides should build up relations on the basis laid by Communist leader Erich Honecker's visit to Kuwait in 1982. Fischer, replying to Sheikh Sabah's speech at a banquet in East Berlin said, East Germany was willing to work for better relations with other Gulf states. "Your visit will give new impulses for the further development of our political, economic, cultural and scientific relations," Mr. Fischer was quoted as saying.

Two groups claim Paris bomb blast

BEIRUT (AP) — Two underground groups claimed responsibility on Tuesday for bombing a post office in the Paris city hall which killed one person and wounded 19 others.

The Committee for Solidarity with Arab Political Prisoners and the Middle East and the hitherto unknown "Partisans of Right and Freedom" declared responsibility for the explosion in separate type-written statements.

The Arabic-language documents were "dropped in the mail box of a Western news agency office in west Beirut."

"The Committee for Solidarity with Arab Political Prisoners and the Middle East declares responsibility for the explosion which targeted yesterday evening the post office at (Premier Jacques) Chirac's city hall," a statement said.

"We declare our responsibility for the explosion at Jacques Chirac's city hall," the "Partisans" declared in their statement.

The committee threatened that "the fire will spread and continue... until our sole demand is met and struggles George Ibrahim Abdallah, Anis Natcaceh and Warouj Garbidjian are set free."

Turkey thinks only 2 men involved in attack

ISTANBUL (Agencies) — The Turkish government said Tuesday investigators were almost certain that only two gunmen carried out the massacre of 21 Jewish worshippers in a Saturday's suicide attack on an Istanbul synagogue.

Authorities previously reported that two men blew themselves up with grenades after raking the congregation in the Neve Shalom synagogue with machinegun fire.

The semi-official Anatolian news agency quoted Interior Minister Yildirim Akbulut as saying:

"Security forces and experts are continuing their work... it is almost certain that the attack on the synagogue was carried out by two terrorists. The evidence points to this."

Some press reports had suggested there were more involved.

Authorities questioned many Arab and Iranian nationals after the attack but none was detained.

Anatolia quoted state security court prosecutor Aytekin Gani Ataman as saying inquiries were now concentrating on how the attackers entered Turkey, who helped them and what organisations were behind them.

Officials said police and municipal leaders met on Tuesday Jewish representatives to plan a

major security operation for the funeral of 19 of the killed on Tuesday.

The other two bodies were flown to Israel.

Turkey refused to allow Israel's religious affairs minister, Yosef Burg, to attend.

Libya's diplomatic mission in Istanbul on Tuesday reacted angrily to reports in the Turkish press that it was suspected of involvement in the killings.

"Libya, target and victim of American state terror, has always been against the killing of innocent people," it said in a statement.

Interior Minister Akbulut also said police had secured "usable" fingerprints from the remains of the two gunmen.

Mr. Akbulut told the AP that the fingerprints would be sent to various countries through Interpol, the International Police Organisation, in an effort to identify the gunmen.

Until Monday, police said all they knew about the gunmen was that they appeared to be Arabs in their 20s.

"They had no papers on them, no clothing labels, no other identification marks," Mr. Akbulut said on Monday. "We don't know who they were, where they came from or to which organisation they belonged."

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18:00 — Documentary
18:20 — Space Voyage
18:30 — Bowmen
19:00 — Local programme
19:45 — Cairo Message
20:00 — News in Arabic
20:40 — Local series
21:40 — Variety
22:00 — Wrestling
23:00 — News in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 — "Des chiffres et des lettres"
18:20 — French series "Cinq"
19:00 — News in French
19:15 — Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
19:30 — News in Hebrew
19:45 — Your Living Body
20:00 — News in Arabic
20:30 — Three's Company
21:10 — Believe it or not (documentary)
22:00 — News in English
22:20 — Moon Stone

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08:30 — News
09:00 — Morning Show Cont.
11:00 — Pop Session
11:30 — Songs from Movies
12:00 — News Summary
12:30 — Pop Session Cont.
13:00 — News Summary
13:30 — Pop Session
14:00 — News Summary
14:30 — Your Health
14:45 — News Summary
15:00 — Concert Hour
15:30 — News Summary
16:00 — Instrumental
16:30 — Old Favorites
17:00 — Jordan Weekly
17:30 — Pop Session
18:00 — News Summary
18:30 — Over a Cup of Tea
19:00 — News Desk
19:30 — Date with a Star
20:00 — Evening Show
21:00 — News Summary
21:30 — Evening Show Cont.
21:55 — News Summary

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

An exhibition of paintings of Amman, Tunisia and Jerusalem by Frank Hallem Day at the Architectural Gallery at Riyadh Centre.

An exhibition of applied arts and crafts by Jamal Badran at the British Council (until Sept. 11).

An exhibition of traditional crafts, organised by Queen Noor Al Hussein Foundation, at Al Hussein Centre, City (until Sept. 10).

An exhibition entitled "La mode, les modes, la rue" at the French Cultural Centre (until Sept. 20).

"Music by Claude Debussy" at 4:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.

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"Music by Claude Debussy" at 4:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.

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University of Jordan Library . Tel. 843555

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Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an

excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

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Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m.

Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings

every second and fourth Wednesday at

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Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings

every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn,

1.30 p.m.

Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday

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Amman International Club. Meetings

every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn,

1.30 p.m.

Amman International Club. Meetings

every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn,

1.30 p.m.

Amman International Club. Meetings

every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn,

1.30 p.m.

Amman International Club. Meetings

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10:00 — Kuwait (RJ)

10:30 — Baghdad (R)

10:45 — Jeddah (RJ)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Eight new Sharia courts to be set up

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Tuesday to set up eight Sharia (Islamic) courts, five of which will be in the East Bank and three in the West Bank. The courts will be set up in Irbid, Tafleh, Karak, Aqaba and Ma'an in the East Bank and Nablus, Jerusalem and Hebron in the occupied West Bank. According to Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Muhammad Mheilan, the courts will start operations as soon as procedures for appointing staff have been completed.

Royal Decree appoints JVA official

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal Decree was announced Tuesday appointing Mohammad Bani Hani as secretary general of the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA).

Congress continues its deliberations

AMMAN (Petra) — The 20th international congress on administrative sciences Tuesday focused attention on personnel management issues in Arab organisations. Participants taking part in the on-going congress discussed such matters as defining responsibilities, assessing personnel performance as well as issues related to personnel training. The participants, meeting at the Royal Cultural Centre, also reviewed working papers on administrative reform and administrative organisation.

Turkish envoy visits citadel in Salt

SALT (Petra) — Turkey's Ambassador to Jordan Mesmij Belsen Tuesday visited Salt archaeological citadel where it is planned to set up a monument in commemoration of Turkish soldiers who died during the First World War. The embassy staff were accompanied on the visit by the director of Awqaf department in Salt and a number of local notables.

Judeh meets Polish minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Mr. Zygmunt Rybicki, minister of state for prime ministry affairs in Poland and Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Sami Judeh Tuesday reviewed bilateral relations and developments in the Middle East region. Dr. Judeh explained Jordan's position on various problems in the region and the Kingdom's stand on an international conference for the establishment of peace in the region. The Polish minister said that "Poland was concerned over the establishment of peace and stability in the Middle East. Mr. Rybicki is currently attending the 20th international congress on administrative sciences."

W. German envoy visits Yarmouk

IRBID (Petra) — West German Ambassador to Jordan Herwig Bartels and Yarmouk University President Mohammad Hamdan Tuesday discussed means of bolstering cooperation between Yarmouk University and West German universities and institutes of higher learning. During the ambassador's visit, projects being carried out at the university with assistance from West German institutions were reviewed and the two sides discussed West German support for the university's archaeology and anthropology museum. Later, the ambassador visited the museum and was briefed on its contents and activities.

CAEU opens meeting on Arab food security

(Continued from page 1)

an eight-point list of recommendations outlined by Prince Hassan as means to bolster inter-Arab agricultural unity and increase efficiency.

— To ask for an Arab pledge to import an annual share of the occupied Arab lands' total agricultural production.

— To set up an Arab counter trade institution to handle the region's internal marketing of agricultural produce on a counter-trade basis.

— The Regent suggested that the proposed company could also market Arab agricultural crops in return for Arab petrochemicals. He suggested that the company be established by the private sector in cooperation with Arab financial institutions so that the company act freely.

He also said that at a later date the company could deal with Europe to open up new markets for Arab agricultural crops.

— To set up an Arab wheat council responsible for outlining programmes for increasing Arab wheat production through tackling marketing problems and assuring the availability of this strategic cereal. Prince Hassan recommended that the council be formed from both cereal exporters and importers and under the umbrella of the CAEU.

— To set up a "Sudan programme" to study the

possibilities of Arab investment opportunities in Sudan in cooperation with the Sudanese government. The programme, according to Prince Hassan, should aim at providing a proper investment atmosphere in Sudan capable of attracting large investment capital.

— To establish a joint Arab industry for fertilisers and agricultural chemicals as well as equipment.

— To strengthen scientific and technological institutions in the Arab World to enhance future Arab food security.

— To set up small-scale industries in rural areas to help alleviate rural poverty, increase the inhabitants vocational training and technical capabilities and to utilise part of the region's agricultural products to manufacture commodities.

— To improve the role of the Arab World's agricultural administration due to the important role the administration plays in the failure or success of any national or regional agricultural project.

The Regent's recommendations

were drafted by a committee from the ATF, and a team from the Ministry of Agriculture.

Prior to presenting his suggestions, the Regent said that the current economic situation in the area was directing the region into "regional and national economicism."

He reviewed the negative aspects of joint Arab action and said that it was not much better from the progress of the Arab League's institutions, "which are currently facing financial problems due to the economic situation affecting the Arab World."

Despite these circumstances affecting the administration and organisation of Arab League institutions, Prince Hassan said, he rejected the idea that the present conditions should be used as a pretext to weaken joint Arab action.

"If we start destroying the infrastructure of joint Arab moves, there will be nothing left for us with which we could enhance future Arab cooperation on all levels," he said.

(Continued on page 5)

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His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, receives Saudi Finance Minister Mohammad Abal Khalil on Tuesday (Petra photo)

Delegation leaves for Euro-Arab dialogue

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian parliamentary delegation, led by Mr. Bahjat Talhoumi, member of the Upper House of Parliament, has left for Vienna to take part in a session of Euro-Arab dialogue due to open on Sept. 12.

Mr. Talhoumi will deliver Jordan's address to the four-day meeting which is to be attended by delegates from 13 Arab countries and 13 European nations, in addition to representatives of the European Parliament and the Arab League's general secretariat.

A member of the delegation, Mousa Abul Ragheb, will deliver a speech outlining the economic conditions in the Arab region as a result of the drop in the price of oil and its consequences on Arab and European nations.

The two sides will also focus attention on means of reactivating the peace process in the Middle East and the prospect of holding an international conference to end the Arab-Israeli conflict in addition to the questions of Lebanon and the Iran-Iraq war. The general situation in the occupied Arab territories will also be reviewed at the meeting.

The delegation was seen off by Parliament's Secretary General Hani Khair.

Rifai confers with Saudi minister of finance

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai conferred in his office on Tuesday with Saudi Arabian Minister of Finance Mohammad Abal Khalil who is currently taking part in the 41st meeting of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU).

During the meeting, they reviewed means of further bolstering Jordanian-Saudi Arabian relations and cooperation. The meeting was attended by Finance Minister Hanna Odeh and Saudi Arabian ambassador to Jordan Sheikh Ibrahim Al Sultan.

Mr. Abal Khalil arrived in Amman on Monday evening and made a statement in which he said that Arab food security remains the most important topic on the agenda of economy, trade and agriculture ministers. The focus of the meeting, he said, would be the latest statistics on agricultural

production in the Arab World and the quantities of foodstuffs imported by Arab countries. The delegates will review these figures in order to work out means of increasing Arab agricultural production to meet the rising demand for food and agricultural produce, the minister said.

He added that there is a great potential in raising production and cited examples of some joint Arab companies which have succeeded in launching major agricultural projects. Mr. Abal Khalil said that stepped up agricultural research efforts and encouragement from national governments for agricultural schemes are among the factors which could help promote Arab agricultural production. He called on Arab governments to increase trade exchange among Arab countries and to open their markets for Arab products.

Delegation from Saudi fund to discuss project financing

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation from the Saudi Fund for Development arrived in Amman on Tuesday for a three-day official visit to Jordan. The delegation's leader Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al Suqair will hold talks with Jordanian officials on the prospect of financing a number of Jordanian development projects.

Sheikh Suqair, who is vice president of the fund, was greeted upon arrival at the airport by Dr. Ziyad Fariz, the Ministry of Planning's secretary general, and several aides.

The Saudi Fund for Development is based in Riyadh and provides loans for different Arab projects.

Health Ministry studies reports on W. Bank medical services

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Health is studying reports prepared by joint health services committees for the occupied West Bank. The contents of the reports are being compared with provisions for health services made in the five-year plan for the West Bank, a ministry spokesman said.

At the same time, the Health Ministry is studying shortages in

health services in the occupied West Bank prior to referring recommendations to the Higher Health Council, the spokesman added. The study is being made, he said, in the light of a report by the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs on the general health situation in the Israeli-held land and the allocations required for raising the level of medical services and improving conditions at Arab hospitals.

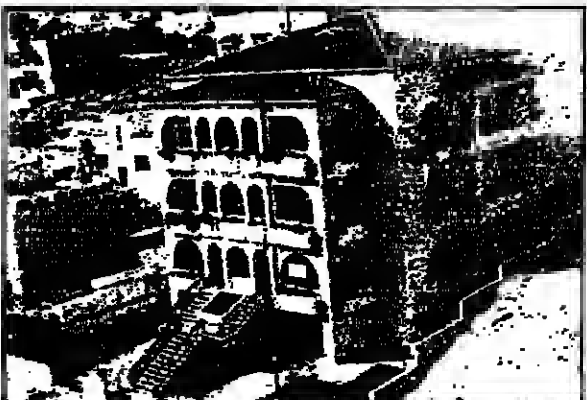
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Jordan urges OIC states to boost economic integration

By Abdullah Hasanat
in Istanbul

JORDAN has called on ministers and experts of six Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) member states to formulate resolutions and recommendations to be forwarded to the OIC summit next year.

Minister of Planning Taher Kana'an made the call in a speech he delivered during the opening session of a three-day meeting of the follow-up committee of the standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the OIC (COMCEC) which convened in Istanbul on Monday to discuss trade and cooperation between Islamic countries.

"Contemporary international relations and the economic order of today make it imperative for Islamic countries to deepen and further their cooperation in order to overcome the problems that are responsible for the decline of growth rates in many Islamic countries," Dr. Kana'an told COMCEC delegates.

The meeting is being attended

by five of the standing committee's six members. They include Turkey as chairman, Palestine as vice-chairman, and Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Jordan as rapporteurs. Guinea, Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the OIC (COMCEC) which convened in Istanbul on Monday to discuss trade and cooperation between Islamic countries.

Another speaker at Monday's session, Saudi Deputy Minister of Finance and Economy R. Usama Al Fakih urged participants to base their work on reality and practicality and to be "selective" in their choice of projects proposed to further Islamic cooperation.

Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Kaya Erdem opened the meeting with messages from Turkish President Kenan Evren and Prime Minister Turgut Ozal. The meeting went into a closed session

in the afternoon to review progress reports by different OIC subsidiary organisations involved in trade and commercial cooperation.

According to Dr. Fayez Tarawneh, economic advisor to Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, the IDB submitted a report on the application of a long-term trade financing facility which conforms to the principles of Islamic sharia law as decided in the IDB governors' meeting held in Amman earlier this year.

During the Amman meeting, the IDB had been asked to study the feasibility of establishing a \$600 million credit facility for the promotion of trade between Islamic countries and for the creation of an Islamic clearing union.

In its progress report, the bank stated that it is in the process of finalising the principles and procedures for the credit facility and that it would contact all OIC member states to ask them to participate in the capital of the facility. Dr. Tarawneh told the Jordan Times.

JPRC moves ahead with expansion plan

ZAROA (Petra) — The Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company (JPRC) has embarked on a project to raise the refinery's production capacity by 250 per cent to enable the plant to refine 12,300 tonnes of crude per day. JPRC Director Ramez Malhees said that the project is the third expansion scheme and that it is expected to cost JD 58.025 million.

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Malhees said that once the project has been completed, the company's production would meet the nation's fuel energy needs until 1995.

Mr. Malhees said that the JPRC plans to increase oil pumping operations to Aqaba for the benefit of the industrial zone there and for this purpose it will build a new pipeline and a pumping station as well as a storage depot for fuel at Aqaba. The JPRC is currently involved in contacts over this project with the Ministries of Energy and Mineral Resources and Industry and Trade, Mr. Malhees continued.

In addition, he said, the JPRC is going ahead with a project for developing a gas bottling unit at a cost of JD 40,000. It is also setting up a permanent station for receiving and unloading crude oil at the JPRC headquarters, which entails building a storage depot and installing four pumps and building 12 terminals for unloading 5,000 tonnes of crude oil a day, all at the cost of JD 190,000.

Mr. Malhees said that the JPRC also plans to open a new road to transport fuel from the loading terminals.

Committee organises helping hands to gather olives

AMMAN (Petra) — Olive growers in Jordan will be helped to gather their crops by schoolchildren against 10 per cent of the total harvest, according to an announcement issued by a special committee which is supervising a campaign for the harvest, due to start in the coming month.

The committee said that 10 per cent of the total olive harvest will go to the schools which send children for one-day to help farmers with their work. A statement issued to farmers in all regions said that those wishing to get the children's help should apply to agricultural departments in their regions.

The announcement was made by the committee after a meeting it held at the headquarters of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) which is involved in the national campaign in cooperation with the

Ministries of Agriculture and Education. The committee passed a number of resolutions dealing with the organisation of an information campaign to go hand in hand with the national effort to gather the olive crop and field trips to cultivated regions by committee members.

According to the announcement, the armed forces will be involved in the campaign and the harvest effort, but it gave no further details.

On Monday, Minister of Agriculture Ahmad Dakkhan instructed all agricultural departments in the provinces to cooperate closely with the RSCN and the Ministry of Education to make the campaign a success.

The committee, which was set up by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, groups the president of the RSCN and two representatives of the Ministries of Agriculture and Education.

Haj Hassan graduates 280 trainees from Sahab centre

AMMAN (Petra) — The Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) Tuesday graduated 280 trainees who have completed three-year courses in vocational training at Sahab vocational training centre.

The graduation ceremony was attended by Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan who delivered a speech in which he underlined the importance of vocational training for workers who are needed for the country's economic and social development projects.

Jordan's keenness on promoting vocational training

reflects the government's concern to prepare young people for the task of shouldering the responsibility of promoting national development, the minister said. Vocational training, he continued, provides the country with the required skilled manpower for meeting the needs of the labour market in Jordan and in other Arab states.

Mr. Haj Hassan, who is also president of the VTC's board of directors, paid tribute to the instructors and VTC officials for their efforts in providing training to Jordanian manpower.



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Food remains vital issue

THE CAEU conference on food security that His Royal Highness the Crown Prince opened yesterday is not the first of its kind to be held here in Jordan or elsewhere in the Arab World. Nor the subject matter is in fact novel or new. Still, the two-day meeting is extremely important, and its importance derives mainly from both the level of attendance and the urgent need to finally do something about Arab food security or just give up on the subject totally.

Achieving food security in the Arab World is a necessity long overdue. We owe it to our nation and the next generations to start a serious, coordinated programme now in order to achieve self-sufficiency in food production. The Arab countries cannot be forgiven for spending \$13 billion on importing food commodities annually. Not when they can easily spend this huge amount on building lasting projects to feed themselves locally. Not when this huge bill is expected to more than double by the year 2000. And definitely not when they can lessen — if not totally eliminate — their political dependence on food supplier countries, and in the process pave the way for pan-Arab economic integration, eradicate poverty and create better chances for a healthier development process.

We in the Arab World have reached a critical moment where we have to either transcend from words to deeds or we suffer from the incalculable risks of doing nothing for our own food security and subsequently economic well-being.

It is not a question of lacking facts and figures on which to base our plans for the future. And it certainly is not lack of imagination and solid proposals on which to proceed. It is a question of willingness and will to start before it is too late. And it is a question of determination to start a much-needed process and to see it through.

The Crown Prince, in his address to the opening session of the conference yesterday, outlined a number of solid proposals which can be adopted and implemented to help start this process. Arab experts and officials did present other such ideas and proposals before. What the conference (and they all are senior decision-makers in Arab countries) should do is not to leave this conference with another pile of papers that will not be acted upon but with clear-cut picture of what has to be done next and with practical decisions and steps on how to proceed from here.

It is needless to reemphasize that food security is a vital issue for all of us in the Arab World. We can ignore it or do nothing about it only at our peril.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Jordan does well in education

NEARLY a million students in Jordan started the 1986/87 scholastic year yesterday. Of these students 106,000 are joining school in the elementary level for the first time in their lives. The average number of students enrolling at schools in Jordan is very high and places Jordan among the most advanced nations which care for education for their citizens at all levels. According to statistics and a statement by Minister of Education Abdul Wahab Al Majali Jordan has a teacher for every 20 students, a ratio rarely found in other countries. The number of students here and abroad and at schools, community colleges and universities is indeed a source of pride for all Jordanians. The figures stand out as evidence of the great efforts of this country under the leadership of King Hussein for promoting education and upgrading knowledge and a trend to achieve the highest possible level of efficiency in educational fields. Education is indeed the base on which progress can be based and prosperity can be achieved.

Al Dustour: Good signs in Lebanon

FOR a second time there is a general feeling of optimism in Lebanon in view of the convening of the Lebanese cabinet in a form of dialogue to find a solution for national problems. All political parties are optimistic since the meeting is designed to work out a new national pact that would replace one enacted in 1943 following independence. What is significant about the meeting is that it is attended by Lebanese people for solving Lebanese issues, away from any pressures or threats and promises from external forces. The meeting comes two weeks after the first meeting which was convened after a long break that lasted nine months, and is designed to tackle issues that emerged at the first meeting. These meetings are really a positive development, and could pave the way for an enlarged parity designed to bring about reconciliation among the warring factions of Lebanon. Perhaps the ministers attending the meetings have been prompted by the pressing economic issues that are now threatening to undermine the Lebanese society as a whole. Nevertheless, such meetings held in a quiet atmosphere of mutual confidence and cooperation are making the Lebanese and the other Arabs more optimistic than ever before.

Sawt Al Shaab: Arab Common Market is the means

ARAB ministers of finance, trade and agriculture meet in Amman today to discuss a host of economic issues of concern to the Arab Nation but mostly to look into means of ensuring food security for the nation. Before the ministers are studies and research papers on Arab economy and plans for the future and also statistics on food production and the potential resources in the Arab World. To date Arab economies have been tied up to foreign economies and many of the Arab countries are still dependent to a great extent on imported food coming from other countries. Above all agricultural technology in the Arab states continues to come from foreign sources which also supply advice and guidance in industry and marketing. Unless the Arab countries take immediate measures to free themselves from foreign domination and take joint action to ensure food for their citizens from now until the year 2,000, the present state of affairs will continue and the Arabs will continue to be dissipating their efforts and their skills in vain. Experts in economy and agriculture maintain that the Arabs should undertake joint economic strategies and launch close cooperation in the field of agriculture and food production. In this respect, there is no alternative to reviving the Arab Common Market through close cooperation and coordination with the Council of Arab Economic Unity under whose umbrella all forms of integration can be forged.

Syria and Lebanon — poverty, war and peace

By Riad Khouri

THE drop in income of the Middle East oil producers has had an adverse impact on other states in the region, particularly Syria and Lebanon. In the words of Tewfic Mishlawi and Ihsan Hijazi's Middle East Reporter, "during the oil boom, which extended from 1973 until 1981, the growing gap between the oil-producing and other states was accompanied by greater dependence by the oil states' economy on foreign countries and the drop in their national products other than oil." At the same time, the non-producing states were increasingly dependent on the oil countries without a growth of their own economy parallel to the oil states' investments. Syria and Lebanon in particular are in fact seen to be facing economic conditions relatively worse than those which prevailed before the oil boom.

Since 1983, the surplus in the local budgets and foreign balances

of the Middle East states has been turning into deficit. Liquidity dropped and an increasing disequilibrium set into the economic structures of both oil producers and non-producers. Kuwait suffered the Manakhs stock market crash and the United Arab Emirates had its banks crisis. Jordan faced financial problems. Syria a crisis of foreign exchange and Lebanon a general breakdown.

In Syria, after registering a growth of about 10 per cent in 1980 and 1981, the rate of growth dropped to around one per cent in 1982 and began to decline further as from 1983. Apart from the decrease in the oil states' aid, several reasons contributed to the weak performance of the Syrian economy, including: — A drought which struck parts of the country between 1983 and 1985 and led to increased spending on the purchase of food.

The low price of some of the raw materials exported by Syria

such as heavy crude, phosphates and cotton. (Sales of crude oil make up about 60 per cent of Syria's total exports.)

— A drop in remittances by Syrians working abroad to their families from \$600 million in 1983 to \$350 million in 1984 and \$300 million in 1985.

— A fall in Syrian exports as a result of numerous plants having to reduce output because of the lack of necessary materials or spare parts, which in turn arose from the scarcity of foreign exchange.

But the main burden for Syria continues to be the requirements of defence and national security. This spending is expected to continue until the realisation of the pledge to achieve strategic parity with Israel. In this context, Syria is also spending a lot on its force deployed in Lebanon.

No precise information is available on the amount of Syria's foreign obligations, but Western sources estimate non-military

debts at \$3.5 billion, including about \$1 billion owing to Iran for oil supplies under an agreement signed in March, 1982, and renewed in 1984. Most of the military debts are to the Soviet Union.

Iran has now cut its cheap oil exports to Syria, and the oil states have reduced their aid to Damascus. As a result the country suffers from an acute shortage of foreign exchange.

But two positive developments have been the rise of the share of agriculture in investments from 17 per cent in the former five-year plan to 22 per cent in the current plan and the discovery of oil at Deir Al Zor, where prospecting is expected to begin late this year.

The importance of the find is that the oil struck is relatively light and will enable Syria to reduce imports of similar oil with which it mixes with its own heavy crude. Syria now produces about 170,000 barrels of crude daily and imports about 200,000 barrels of

light oil to mix with Syrian oil. Official reports expect the Deir Al Zor production to be about 50,000 barrels a day, and Syrian exports from the oilfield should be worth some \$400 million this year.

Lebanon in the 1970s was the country which profited most from the oil boom. The increased purchasing power of the oil states, to which Lebanon provided services in the fields of tourism, banking and transit trade, led to strong growth and higher exports.

When security conditions deteriorated in Lebanon in the mid-1970s, Arab oil states became a refuge for Lebanese manpower whose remittances helped to maintain a balance of payments surplus and a steady rate of exchange of the Lebanese pound. The continued deterioration of security in Lebanon since 1983 has accompanied the subsiding of the oil boom, the impact being felt by the Lebanese industrial and

banking sectors. The continued decline of the Lebanese economy is seen as driving Lebanon to greater dependence on the oil states and on generous aid programmes to ensure revival and future prosperity.

But do these sunny clouds have silver linings after all? Possibly. First the rapid rise and subsequent fall of GNP in Lebanon and Syria will, hopefully, lead to economic restructuring. If this is achieved, they may come out of the present crisis in better shape. (Or, as doctors sometimes say, what doesn't kill you may make you stronger.) Second, the economic crisis might lead to a speeding up of the search for a political solution in Lebanon. Civil war is a luxury the Lebanese can no longer afford. With their neighbour Syria suffering along with them, the spur of poverty might make both countries look more vigorously for a quick and lasting solution to the Lebanese conflict.

Condemned by world, Pinochet rules Chile with iron hand

Reuter

SANTIAGO — Chilean President Augusto Pinochet, who survived an assassination attempt on Sunday, has been cast in the role of arch-villain ever since he came to power in a bloody coup in 1973.

The nature of the elected government he overthrew, the ruthlessness of the armed forces in the following weeks and the suppression of dissent earned him near-universal condemnation.

Pictures of the smoking ruins of the Moneda Palace, where the body of President Salvador Allende was found, eloquently symbolised the end of 50 years of democratic politics in Chile and of the world's first elected Marxist government.

But General Pinochet, 70, remains convinced he and the armed forces answered a call from the Chilean people and that his

mission is to save the country from the threat of communism.

Proud of his control of state machinery, he said in 1981: "Not

a leaf stirs in this country unless I move it."

He portrays himself as a rough-and-ready soldier, spicing speeches with slang and country proverbs, but that image conceals a political acumen severely underestimated by opponents.

Augusto Pinochet Ugarte, who has ruled Chile longer than any other president, was born in Valparaiso on Nov. 25, 1915.

He rose through the ranks of one of Latin America's toughest armies, known for its Prussian-style discipline, to become commander-in-chief only weeks before the September 1973 coup.

Allende picked him for the job because he was sure he was committed to the army tradition of staying out of politics.

As air force jets strafed the Moneda Palace, Allende is reported to have telephoned Pinochet and asked: "Augusto,

what is going on?" The armed forces said later Allende committed suicide but his supporters insist he was murdered.

News that thousands of leftists had been killed or herded into Santiago's national stadium and sent to prison camps won the new government widespread international condemnation.

With thousands more exiled abroad, foreign governments kept up pressure over allegations of murder, torture and other human rights abuses by security forces. But Pinochet stood unmoved, sacrificing subordinates to control the worst scandals.

Pinochet had gained control of the four-man military junta after the coup through force of personality and the seniority of the army over the navy, air force and para-military police.

Formal consecration of his supremacy came in 1980, when a new constitution was approved by

another plebiscite which confirmed him in power until 1989 and gave him the chance to stay on until 1997.

The constitution enshrined his vision of the "protected democracy" to take effect in 1989, in which there was no place for the Marxist left, part of the senate was appointed, the president's powers were strengthened at the expense of congress and the armed forces were granted a special advisory role.

The plebiscite, held during a boom financed by a cheap dollar and foreign borrowing, was criticised as unfair by opponents who said they were denied equal access to the media.

Pinochet's authoritarian political philosophy was accompanied by a preference for free-market monetarist economic policies, entrusted to a group of economists trained at the University of Chicago and known as the "Chicago boys."

But in 1982, the economy crashed. The peso was devalued, debtors could not pay and unemployment reached new heights.

The economic crisis set off a wave of anti-government protests in 1983 which threatened Pinochet's hold on power.

After failing to control the protests by force, he opted for a period of political liberalisation, vague promises that a transition to democracy could be speeded up and a change to more expansionist economic policies.

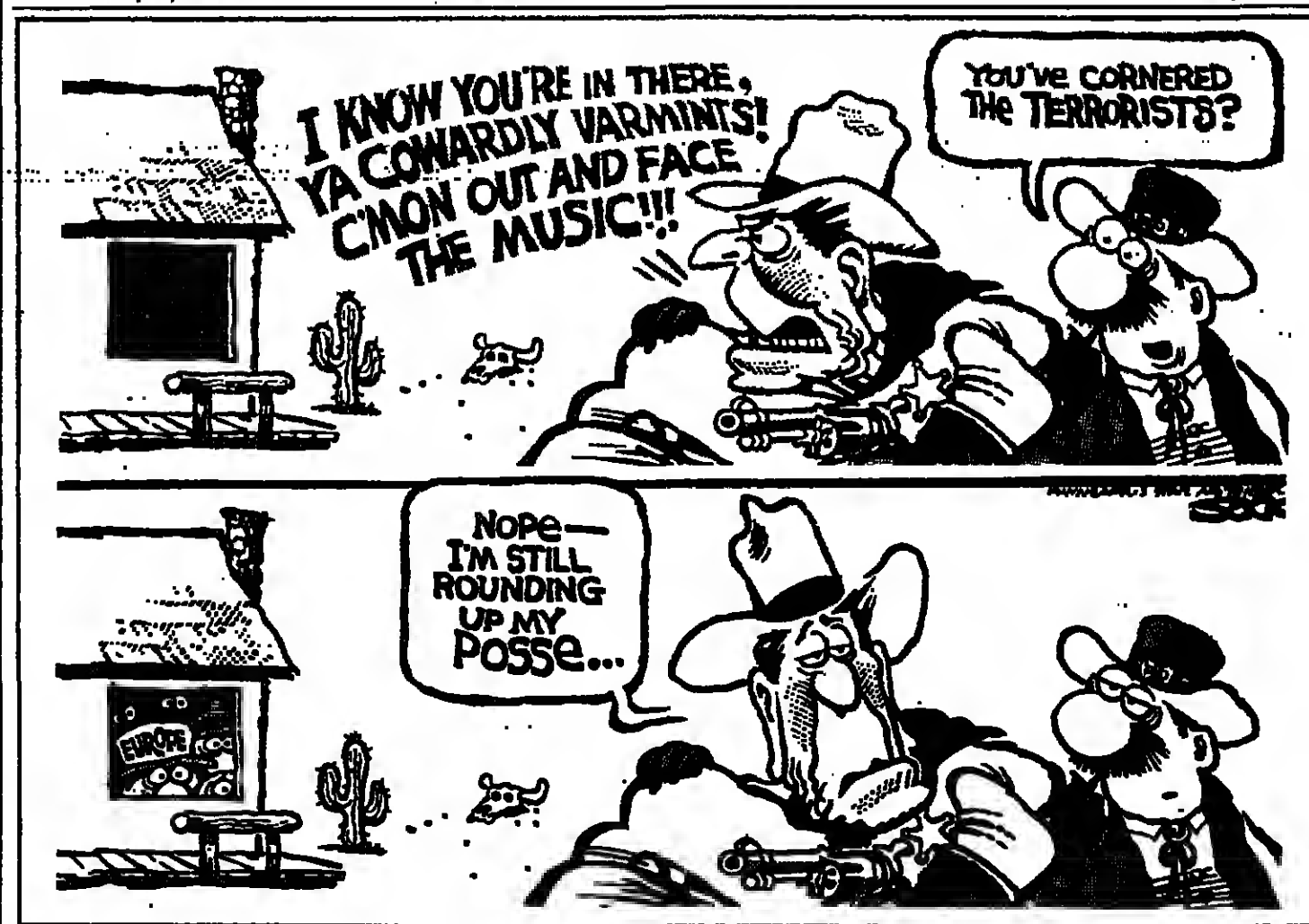
The tactic helped disperse the upper and middle classes from working-class protest and in November 1984 he slammed the door on reform again, imposing an eight-month state of siege on the pretext of an upsurge in leftist guerrilla activity.

In March 1986 the United States sponsored a United Nations resolution deploring Pinochet's human rights record, the first time it had voted against Chile since the 1973 coup.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Schifter said "quiet diplomacy" had failed to end killings, torture and kidnappings.

White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan said the United States was not trying to overthrow Pinochet "at this moment," but was opposed to all forms of dictatorship.

Although angry at the U.S. pressure, the Chilean leader vowed not to alter his plan to stay in power until at least 1989. Pinochet is married with two sons and three daughters.



Atlantic islands unhappy over mainland neglect

By Patrick Reyna
The Associated Press

PONTA DELGADA, Azores Islands — This mid-Atlantic archipelago marks the 10th anniversary of its regional parliament on Thursday, with ties with Portugal strained to the boiling point.

After 549 years of direct control from a continental capital a thousand miles away and another decade of what was supposed to be regional autonomy, many Azoreans are fed up.

"There is such a lack of consciousness about our problems in Lisbon," Regional President Joao Bosco Mota Amaral said in a recent interview in his office on the island of Sao Miguel. "For generations, Azoreans have felt and suffered from the neglect of these islands by the mainland."

Tension has risen to such a level over the past week that Portuguese President Mario Soares, scheduled to address the Azores parliament, may not show up at all.

Newspapers in Lisbon reported that the socialist head of state plans Wednesday to veto the new Azores autonomy statute, drawn up by the 44-member regional assembly and approved in July by the Portuguese parliament.

A rightist faction in the Portuguese military does not like wording in the statute that places the region's flag and anthem on a par with those of the nation.

Members of this group under

armed forces Chief of Staff General Jose Lemos Ferreira have also expressed their disapproval of autonomy as a factor leading to the "dismembering of the nation."

Azoreans opposed the naming of a general as national minister responsible for the administration of the nine-island archipelago of 250,000 people.

Mota Amaral, a popular centrist Social Democrat Party leader, said his government tried to have a civilian named to the post but failed.

Ironically, it was a then left-leaning military, following its April 1974 coup against an authoritarian civilian regime in Lisbon, that favoured autonomous status for the Azorean archipelago and for the island of Madeira.

The change in the islands' status was part of a move to divest Portugal of most of its remaining overseas empire — primarily five nations in Africa.

An Azores independence movement founded at the same time continues in a semi-clandestine fashion under the leadership of a 51-year-old school teacher.

Independence based on "special ties to all the independent peoples of the Portuguese-speaking world" is the goal of the Azores Liberation Front (FLA), says its chief, Jose de Almeida.

The autonomy status set up for the Azores and Madeira in the 1976 constitution was not drawn

up by Azoreans but was "a solution Lisbon came up with to stave off independence," he said in an interview.

"What the Portuguese don't want is for the Azores to be the sort of place we want but, instead, what they want in accordance with their wishes and in keeping with Portugal's commitments to the rest of the world."

Portugal leases the United States an air base at Lajes on Terceira Island and has allowed installation of the Azores fixed acoustic range, through which U.S. personnel monitor submarine traffic in the region and through the strategic strait of Gibraltar.

The islands were discovered in 1427 by Portuguese sailor Diogo de Silves as he was taking his way back up the North African coast towards home. The damp, mild and green tops of submerged volcanoes were settled by Portuguese farmers looking for a better life but were always run by grandees and bureaucrats in Lisbon.

Ties to the United States go back generations through contact with Yankee whaling vessels and merchants and have been strengthened by massive emigration.

In 1985 Azoreans living in the United States and Canada sent \$39.6 million back to the archipelago. Over the past quarter century an estimated 150,000 Azoreans have emigrated to the

United States and Canada. Under Mota Amaral's leadership, the regional government has invested heavily in modernising the islands' fishing fleet and the dairy and livestock industries and has expanded and improved the inter-island airline and regional shipping and port facilities.

Since 1975, emigration has dwindled from 8,000 a year to 1,700 last year.

By contrast, conditions in continental Portugal have deteriorated with no political party able to obtain a ruling majority in parliament. Its economy is in sharp decline.

While Mota Amaral does not go so far as to lead public support to calls for independence, a close associate, who asked not to be named, said it was "only natural we should end up independent."

What was once called insular Portugal and the continent have little in common. Many continental Portuguese refer to Azoreans as "ilheus" or "oceanic hicks," but the islanders think of themselves as more enterprising than their mainland compatriots.

Lisbon photographer Candido de Almeida said he could feel the hostility when he spoke his continental-accented Portuguese.

"It's a different world, a different way of thinking and doing things. We really have nothing in common — apart from the language."

JORDAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY AQABA THERMAL POWER STATION, STAGE II AND AMMAN SOUTH 400 KV SUBSTATION GENERAL PROCUREMENT NOTICE

The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) will be issuing tender documents for equipment and works which are being prepared for the Aqaba Thermal Power Station, Stage II and for the Amman South 400 KV Substation. The implementation of the projects will be effected during the period 1987-1991.

A. AQABA THERMAL POWER STATION, STAGE II

The Aqaba Thermal Power Station, Stage II with its first unit to be commissioned in 1991, consists of two 130 MW dual fired generating units together with the necessary accessories, switchyard (400 KV) and civil works, which would be grouped into four major contracts, one turnkey contract or a combination thereof. The preliminary expected dates for issuance of bidders are as follows:

- (i) Boiler Island — Last half of September 1986.
- (ii) Turbine-Generator — October 1986.
- (iii) Civil Works — During November 1986. (Prequalification forms were issued in April to bidders and were returned for study in June 1986)
- (iv) Switchyard Island — During December 1986.

B. AMMAN SOUTH 400 KV SUBSTATION

This part of the work consists of three separate contracts. The preliminary expected dates for issuance of bidders are as follows:

- (i) 400 KV Indoor — During December 1986.
- (ii) Switchgear
- (iii) Transformers — During December 1986.
- (iv) 400/132 KV end
- (v) Reactors 400 KV
- (vi) Civil Works — During August 1987.

The bidders will be allowed to bid for any tender package, or any combination thereof.

It is expected that this project be financed by loans from the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, Arab Fund for Economic & Social Development, the World Bank, and other Arab and international funding agencies. The funding will be in accordance with the agencies special terms and conditions.

Tender documents for any of the contracts will be available from the address below for a non-refundable fee of JD 100 to JD 1000 for each set consisting of two copies of the tender documents, payable to JEA. Tenders will be advertised when available.

Jordan Electricity Authority
Post Office Box 2310
Amman, Jordan
Telex: 21259

Water, water everywhere — Technology helps better feed billion people

By Henning Engel

WATER in amounts so huge as to be barely conceivable is locked away in geological formations beneath south and central Egypt. The contents of these caverns, something like 50,000 cubic kilometres, are roughly equivalent to the water that has flown down the Nile past Cairo and into the Mediterranean over the past 2,000 years.

What makes this water from the bowels of the earth so special is that it is age-old and was locked away in the Earth's dim and distant past.

Up to a third of it might possibly be brought to the surface and put to agricultural or industrial use, say Berlin scientists.

Fossil water reservoirs exist in Sudan too, although probably smaller in size than Egypt's potential reserves.

This was only one of the interesting findings of an interdisciplinary research project on geoscientific problems in arid areas.

Berlin scientists associated with the project came from the Free University, the Technical University and the Technical College.

German scientists funded by the Scientific Research Foundation (DFG) were joined by a substantial number of Egyptian and Sudanese scientists.

Project activities include geological surveys and cartography, assessment of water and commodity reserves and of the ecological repercussions of exploiting them.

Research has also dealt with the geological history of north-east Africa.

The main problem associated with using fossil water is that it is non-renewable and could lead to subsidence of the water table.

In Libya and Saudi Arabia, oases near modern tubewell projects have already been found to be drying up.

On the other hand, agricultural irrigation could have a beneficial effect on the overall climate. Water that evaporated could trigger more frequent rain-fall.

The Aswan dam, for instance, has proved beneficial in this respect — regardless of other ecological disadvantages it may have entailed.

Besides, Professor Eberhard Klitzsch, head of the department of geology and palaeontology at the Technical University and project

spokesman, says, the dam has probably forestalled famine in Egypt.

The Aswan reservoir has supplied enough water to ensure irrigation of the Nile valley throughout the past five to six years of drought.

This, alongside hydroelectric power, is by far the most important task the dam was designed to perform.

Irrigation using fossil water may run a further risk. Water that evaporates leaves mineral traces in the soil. In other words, the soil could be salinated.

So Berlin scientists face the task of ascertaining and weighing up the ecological consequences of using fossil water and deciding the best use to which it might be put.

Fossil water reserves are sufficient, Professor Klitzsch says, for agricultural irrigation to a certain extent in certain areas, but not to make the desert bloom throughout the eastern Sahara.

They might, for instance, be used to exploit commodity reserves and to supply surrounding areas with water for agricultural use.

In connection with irrigation it must be borne in mind that evaporation rules out large-scale spraying. Direct application to individual plants using drip pipes is the only technique that makes sense — and it is expensive.

An alternative well worth considering is that of harnessing fossil water and solar energy to split the water into hydrogen and oxygen and use the hydrogen as, say, an environmentally irreproachable motor fuel.

The Berlin scientists have found traces of other commodities than water. Further deposits of phosphate and oil shale have been located in Egypt and Sudan.

Phosphate has been particularly important for Egypt as fertilizer since the Aswan dam brought the annual Nile flooding to an end. It is also exported.

New bauxite and iron ore deposits have been found, while limestone has been found in Sudan for the first time, as have industrial minerals such as cement base, kaolin and clay, all of which are scarce in Sudan.

Two main methods were used to compile geological data: field work and satellite data evaluation.

Large-scale photographs were supplied by the American Landsat, enabling the trained observer to draw a number of inferences on heights and depths.

on features of the Earth's crust and on types of rock and vegetation.

Satellite photos are a fairly poor guide to commodities. The main findings in this respect are arrived at by means of field work.

Between 70 and 80 scientists spend three to six weeks a year prospecting in the arid areas of the eastern Sahara at temperatures of between 40°C and 55°C in the shade.

Their findings are partly amplified by aerial photography, covering fairly small areas in great detail, and by analysis of drilling by Egyptian and Sudanese scientists.

These techniques enable research scientists to describe in detail the shape of Earth's crust, the soil and the topography.

Using these findings inferences can be drawn as to the likelihood of water or commodity reserves. Maps can be compiled on scales of 1:500,000 and 1:100,000.

Conclusions can also be reached as to the region's geological past. Berlin scientists have, for instance, decided that the Sahara table has inclined one way and another on several occasions in the geological past.

River water now runs north to the Mediterranean, but it used to flow south.

In the carbonaceous period, about 280 million years ago, southern Egypt was much less low-lying than it is today. It was even ice-clad.

As a consequence of continental drift the entire area was 40° to 50° south of the equator.

The Sahara table last tilted in the Jurassic period, about 150 million years ago, and has since stayed put, as it were.

Commodity deposits and fossil water reserves largely owe their origins to this phenomenon.

From the early tertiary period, about 70 to 80 million years ago, Africa collided with Asia, Asia Minor and Europe.

The Red Sea divide was one result, with the Arabian peninsula being nudged about 120 kilometres north in the process.

At the same time the Red Sea began to open wider, a trend that continues and might well lead, in a few million years hence, to the formation of a new ocean.

This mechanism is to be studied in greater detail in future research as part of the Berlin project — Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin.

By Zhao Qinghua

"I STRONGLY believe in science," declared Li Guangxun, a 53-year-old peasant in Peking's eastern suburbs.

An agro-technician since 1962, Li knows from his own experience that recent advancements in science and technology had great potential benefits for farmers.

As the head of his village, Li proved his point, multiplying the group's income sharply in the past three years. His approach was simple — applying technical guidance and new seed varieties provided by municipal and county agricultural research centres.

Since 1983 Li's group, mostly inexperienced and elderly people, has contracted to till 100 MU (about seven hectares) of farm land to grow vegetables for urban dwellers.

Their crops include seedless watermelons, strawberries, American sweet melons, Dutch cucumbers and tomatoes. Using hothouses, plastic coverings and application of fermented manure as fertilizer, their vegetables are free of chemical and insecticide contamination and are popular items with the city's major hotels.

In 1985, their third year of vegetable farming, members received an average annual income of 1,500 yuan (about \$500), compared with China's average rural income of 397 yuan. This is several times the group's income compared with three years

ago, when they grew cereals and produced with conventional methods.

Li's group is just one example among millions of Chinese peasants who have benefited from government-sponsored agricultural assistance.

Agricultural plant protection and seed stations, agricultural science institutes and experimental farms have been set up in nearly all of China's 2,300 counties for the promotion of agricultural techniques, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fishery.

Widespread popularisation of new cultivation techniques and use of new seed strains have helped raise agricultural production

of advanced techniques on model farms, have raised wheat and corn productivity in 25 counties of the north China provinces of Shandong, Hebei, Henan and Shaanxi and Peking municipality.

Compared with average fields, per-hectare yields on model farms produced an additional 1.65 tonnes to 2.4 tonnes — a net profit of 249 million yuan in the past three years.

Coverings of plastic film on cotton, peanuts and vegetables

state promotes 20 to 30 major agricultural methods each year with the help of 225,846 agro-technicians from various institutions, the Ministry said.

Economic gains from 59 techniques popularised in 1983 amounted to 1.7 billion yuan (about \$500 million); in 1984, 4 billion yuan (about \$1.3 billion) resulted from 85 techniques; and 3.6 billion yuan (\$1.2 billion) in 1985 for 53 techniques. During this period the government

provided nearly 10 million yuan for these projects.

In one highly successful project, hybrid rice was planted on 126 million MU (about 8.4 million hectares) of land across the country, accounting for about one-fourth of the area sown with rice nationwide. And the total hybrid rice harvest approached one-third of the nation's rice harvest. The average per hectare yield of hybrid rice reached 6.45 tonnes, 1.2 tonnes more than conventional rice.

Scientific management, including detailed demonstrations

have not only shortened growth periods but also increased yields.

To further aid the rural economy, China has implemented an ambitious new plan called "Spark," meaning a rapid spread of science and technology throughout the country. The name comes from a Chinese proverb, "a little spark can start a prairie fire."

The target for the State Science Commission plan in the Seventh Five-Year Plan period (1986-1990) is to develop 100 new technology and equipment applications suitable for rural enterprises, organise large scale production and set up 500 model rural enterprises to demonstrate techniques. They will be supplied with complete technical knowhow, modern management procedures and product designs and methods of quality control. They will train 1 million young workers and cadres on the job, allowing them to learn one or two advanced skills suitable for local use.

An outline for the plan's implementation calls for the state to start 736 projects and set up 51 training centres with financial support, the State Science Commission reported.

First and most important aim for this period is to transform traditional household breeding of cattle and poultry into mechanised farming and to improve production and processing of the products. Included are cattle, sheep, rabbits, fresh-water fish, pigs, ducks and geese, as well as

dairy products.

Secondly, to set up model factories for processing forest, farm and native products locally. Included are small refineries for edible oils, small factories for comprehensive use of cotton seeds, stalks and rapeseeds and the processing of fruits, bamboo and natural fibres.

Thirdly, to use new techniques to develop building materials for rural residents, so that they will be able to obtain standardised housing that is cheap, safe and comfortable.

Fourthly, to develop small mining industries, such as tin, gold, copper and other non-ferrous metals.

Fifthly, to apply new techniques in farm and factory production, such as using microbe and micro-electronics.

Other goals include production of parts and accessories for large industries in small rural enterprises, setting up technology development models at representative places for regional development of mountainous areas, coastal areas and building commodity bases to supply big cities with vegetables, aquatic products, fruits and other foodstuffs.

If implemented correctly, officials say the "Spark" plan will spread modern science and technology in villages and factories in China's vast rural areas, contributing favourably to modernising China's rural economy — China Features.

Israeli film reawakens debate over the lost war in Lebanon

As Israel withdrew from Lebanon last year, permission was given to make a film to be used on officer courses. But now, an extra side has been found to the film: the debate over the rights and wrongs of the war. Andrew Whitley reports on a much-acclaimed documentary drama.

TEL AVIV: During the final days of Israel's withdrawal last summer to the edge of southern Lebanon, the Israel Defence Forces' film unit began making a remarkable documentary drama.

Shot on a shoestring budget in 24 days, as the armoured columns were rolling back, the aim was to produce a training film for officer courses, to depict the moral ambiguities and conflicts of leadership on the battlefield.

Instead, what Col. Ely Dory, the producer, and his troupe of soldier-actors really achieved was a powerful portrayal of the war in Lebanon, a conflict which most Israelis who served there saw as a bottomless cesspit from which they were lucky to escape alive. The soldiers themselves exerted

pressure to give the film — entitled Two Fingers from Sidon in Hebrew and Ricochets in English — a wider viewing to show their friends and relatives what torments they went through. Initially hesitant, Gen. Mchale Levy, the chief-of-staff, recently agreed to permit its public release.

Shown at the last Cannes Film Festival, the film, much of which was shot in southern Lebanon, has received critical acclaim. But once it is released commercially, it is sure to reawaken much of the debate about what Israel was doing in Lebanon in the first place — and still is, 12 months after officially withdrawing.

What gives the film added significance is the way in which it tackles head on such issues as the death of innocent children caught up in a brutish war, what the U.S. military likes to describe in its sanitised fashion as "collateral damage."

The backdrop for the film which used local Lebanese as extras while the fighting continued, is provided by a class of personalities between a young, naïvely idealistic officer, who is unsure about the war but does not know exactly why, and his battle-hardened unit commander. A real infantry unit stood guard as the cinematic shooting went on.

However, the central political question of why, and how, Israel got involved in Lebanon is avoided completely, leaving the film with a gaping hole in its heart.

The narrative blandly states in the opening sequence: "In 1982, the Israeli Army entered Lebanon to root out terrorist bases there. The action was to be limited in both time and scope. But Israel became entangled in the war and

remained fighting in Lebanon for three years."

Given that many of the chief protagonists in the war, most notably Mr. Ariel Sharon, the Israeli defence minister at the time, are still prominent in political and military life, this discretion in an army film is not surprising. But it nevertheless runs counter to much of what emerged during the war and subsequently about the real aims of Gen. Sharon and Mr. Menachem Begin.

But always there is the confusing situation in which it is almost impossible to distinguish whether the film is saying "good" or "bad," "right" or "wrong."

"This is Lebanon," the unit commander tells the young lieutenant straight out of officer college. "Forget what you learnt in training. It's different here."

The grudging acceptance of the fact that the other side are fighters also, even if they sometimes

remained fighting in Lebanon for three years."

That such a film should have been made is one of the many paradoxes of the war. It remains remarkably honest to the end. "Are you glad it's all over?" a television reporter asks the unit commander as the final pull-out begins.

In a way, it's not over," he replies. "Everybody's carrying this war home" — Financial Times feature.

CAEU opens meeting on Arab food security

(Continued from page 3)

The Regent also called on Arab states to be more optimistic in dealing with future Arab cooperation and integration. "We could tackle all problems facing us now that we have passed through worse times," said the Prince noting that the only outlet to overcome the present situation "is to inject new scientific approaches to joint Arab action in economy and social cooperation."

Referring to the February discussions and recommendations of the ATF, Prince Hassan said the organisation's suggestions were based on a joint regional approach to the Arab food security. "This approach means that the Arab World has the potential to produce its food requirements relying totally on local resources and expertise," he said.

The Crown Prince discussed the impact of modern bio-technology on increasing the Arab World's food potentials and expanding bilateral inter-Arab trade cooperation.

Following are major excerpts from Mr. Klibi's speech:

Arab economy showed very slow and meagre growth in 1985 not exceeding 1.5 per cent compared with the 1984 performance. Taking into consideration the average inflation level in Arab countries real local production levels display a big retreat.

The continual drop in revenues due to the fall in the price of oil has caused a further deterioration in Arab economies forcing some Arab oil states to adopt austerity policies and to rationalise expenditure on consumer commodities and in investments and to reconsider their priorities with regard to development projects. But where as financial policies played a role in restraining expenditure on civil projects, Arab defence expenditure continue to increase.

The trend in economic retreat continued during 1986 as the world economic recession continued and as a result of the drop in oil revenues. This resulted in complications in foreign trade and an increase in the volume of debts. The coming era abounds with challenges and the answer to all this rests in adopting Arab joint economic strategy and start working for economic integration among Arab states.

Among the major challenges facing the Arab countries is the food problem and the Arab countries continue to rely on foreign countries for their food supplies. This problem can be solved if the agriculture sector in the Arab World is given more attention and if the 1980s witness an increase in agricultural production.

The Arab Nation has a great agricultural potential and several recommendations and resolutions were passed by ministers of agriculture and by the CAEU and it is time for implementing these resolutions if we are to change the present situation.

It must be emphasised that investments in the agriculture sector in the 1970s remained modest and as a result the Arab World is suffering from food shortage in the 1980s. On the brighter side, the Arab countries have been successful in launching seven programmes towards achieving food security through the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development. The programmes are aimed at narrowing the gap between consumption and production between now and the year 2,000 and the recently formed task force grouping a number of Arab League agencies has been directing its attention to see more investments being made in agricultural sector. Also I am pleased to see a number of joint Arab projects achieving good results in this respect, namely the Arab Company for the Development of Animal Wealth and the Arab Fund for Investments and Agricultural Development.

To ensure Arab food security joint efforts are required and more care and attention should be given to agriculture. More efforts should be exerted to overcome difficulties that prevent the free flow of trade in agricultural commodities among Arab countries and to offer Arab commodities further protection in the face of external competition. On the Iran-Iraq war, Mr. Klibi said:

This war has had tremendous negative effect on Arab solidarity and deepened the imbalance of power in the Middle East region and pushed the Palestine problem to the bottom of the list of priorities and also opened the way for foreign intervention in Arab security. For this reason the Arab

and Islamic worlds welcome Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's five-point peace plan which calls for a total withdrawal of forces to international boundaries, a complete exchange of prisoners of war, non-interference in each other's affairs, and signing a peace treaty.

We believe that these principles serve as a formula for an honourable solution for the tragic conflict and therefore we call on the Iranian leadership to accept the bid for peace and an end to bloodshed.

On Palestine, Mr. Klibi said: We must say that Israel's disregard to international law by continuing to deny the Palestinian people their rights and by continuing to occupy Arab land opens the way for more desperate actions on the part of the displaced people of Palestine.

Violent Palestinian attacks here and there reflect the despair and an expression of loss of hope. What we call for is justice and an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of international law. We have expressed our strongest condemnation of the hijack of the American airliner in Karachi and the shedding of innocent people's blood. We also condemned the attack on the Jewish synagogue in Istanbul and the outrageous killing of innocent people.

These violent attacks are not justified and are alien to our traditions, our religions and conflicting with our own interests. But we also warn Israel not to make an excuse of such attacks to launch reprisals and commit further acts of aggression because such actions would only increase malice and widen the cycle of violence.

The international community should also realise that Israel is trying to exploit these two actions as a screen for committing further expansionist attacks pursuing its racist policies against the Arabs.

We believe that the two violent incidents should serve as an incentive for the international community to speed up steps for organising an international conference to find a just solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Also we believe that Israel should refrain from fuelling the sectarian war in Lebanon and withdraw its forces from southern Lebanon so that the Lebanese people are allowed to live in peace. Lebanon's struggle to end the civil war and maintain its

independence and territorial integrity should acquire Arab countries' support and backing. All peace efforts in Lebanon should be backed by Arab countries.

On Sudan, Mr. Klibi said: The continuing rebellion in the south is bound to shake Sudan's national unity. Therefore we support the Sudanese government's endeavours to preserve the country's unity and end the rebellion which is being stirred by foreign forces.

Following the inaugural session, the CAEU opened its two-day meetings with key addresses by representatives from Kuwait, Sudan, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Libya. In their addresses, the representatives made a detailed review of the economic situation in the Arab World and emphasised the need for further cooperation to achieve food security.

Kuwait deplores non-cooperation

Kuwaiti Minister of Finance Ahmad Khurafi started his speech with a review of the current economic situation in the Arab World in light of the latest developments on the regional and international levels. Mr. Khurafi urged Arab countries to join efforts with a view to achieve food security since "the lack of cooperation among Arab states has created a major food problem."

He also attributed the problem to the widening gap between food supply and demand, the ever-increasing population and the absence of a sound food production planning on a pan-Arab level.

"The Arab countries are rich with vast agricultural areas, water resources and trained manpower, but all these elements remain frozen and unexploited without proper long-term plans based on an integrated and sound strategy," Mr. Khurafi told participants at the session which was chaired by Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Rajai Muasher. Dr. Muasher took the post upon request from the representative of Djibouti which is the present rotating chairman of the council.

The Kuwaiti minister urged the council to expedite the implementation of food security projects which had been adopted

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His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Tuesday receives Sudanese Agriculture Minister Omar Dayem, who delivered to him a

message from Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi (Petra photo)

in previous conferences and stressed the need for a unified Arab strategy for pan-Arab agricultural and economic integration.

He called on the CAEU to probe into the main obstacles impeding Arab economic integration with a view to arrive at a common strategy on food production and consumption.

Sudanese pledge

In his address Sudan's Minister of Agriculture Omar Dayem expressed his government's willingness and readiness in cooperation with other Arab countries, to become "the Arab World's bread basket."

"Sudan could be the base for carrying out agricultural investment projects, but we need the help of Arab cooperation and financial support," said Dr. Dayem.

He urged CAEU member states for further cooperation to bypass obstacles facing Arab economic and agricultural unity.

Dr. Dayem said that the failure of some previous experiences in Sudan was the result of "ousted President (Jaafar) Numeiri's mismanagement and corruption."

"Sudan has inherited a phase of corruption and mismanagement — the accumulation of Numeiri's 16 years of rule — which reflects on Sudan's relations with sister Arab countries," he said.

The Sudanese minister said that the new Sudanese government was "keen to correct previous blunders, made by Numeiri's regime" and stressed that his country possessed all elements needed for achieving food security in the Arab World.

PLO call

In his address, PLO representative Jamal Sourani called on Arab governments to pave the way for developing economic and agricultural resources by starting with the human element in promoting his or her capabilities.

"The cornerstone for development is the Arab individual and promoting his or her personal freedom as a human being is the ultimate aim of development," said Mr. Sourani, a PLO Executive Committee member.

Mr. Sourani called on Arab governments to give "more freedom of expression to the man

in the street" and to "abandon political differences in favour of boosting socio-economic ties."

"Arab governments should first facilitate travelling procedures for citizens from one country to another and should also break barriers facing transportation of goods and funds between Arab states before jumping into solving the food security problem," the PLO representative said.

Mr. Sourani called on CAEU member states to honour their financial commitments to the steadfastness of Arab inhabitants of the occupied territories. He said that Arab people on the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip "have to pay 39 kinds of tax to the Israeli authorities as part of the Jewish state's expansionist policy aimed at evicting indigenous people from their homeland."

The PLO representative urged Arab states to fulfil their financial commitments under resolutions adopted by the 1978 Baghdad Arab summit.

Mr. Sourani also called on the CAEU to reactivate the work of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee for the steadfastness of Palestinian people and to open Arab markets to absorb produce from the occupied territories as another means to curb the deteriorating economic situation on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr. Sourani attributed the current food problem in the Arab World to the lack of cooperation among Arab states and political differences. Citing an example, Mr. Sourani said that development projects in Sudan "would not have failed if the mass population had a say in the political decision-making."

He urged Arab states to take a

more firm stand on the international scene regarding the Middle East problem and lashed out at the United States "for sponsoring international terrorism which is directed at the Arabs, mainly Palestinians."

Karpov resigns 14th game

Kasparov takes 8 to 6 to lead in world chess rematch

LENINGRAD, USSR (AP) — Garri Kasparov established a commanding 8-6 lead in his world championship rematch with Anatoly Karpov when Karpov resigned the adjourned 14th game without resuming play.

At 3:45 p.m., Tuesday, an hour and 15 minutes before the game was to be resumed, the chief arbiter, West German Grandmaster Lothar Schmid, received an official letter from Karpov's chief second, Grandmaster Igor Zaitsev, confirming the resignation.

Deputy arbiter Bob Wade of England said Kasparov's sealed move had been N-C5 (N-B5 or knight to bishop five).

Kasparov now has a two-point lead; Karpov must win three games without loss if he is to

regain the title Kasparov took from him in their last contest. World championship rules state that in the event of a 12-12 tie in the 24-game match, the champion will retain his title.

In Monday's game, Kasparov opened with the Ruy Lopez for the first time in this match. Both players flashed out their opening moves quickly until Karpov sacrificed a pawn with his 21st move.

After 16 minutes' thought, Kasparov declined the offer, preferring to turn his attention to

his opponent's king side. In a complicated position, which grandmasters found hard to assess, the initial reaction was that Karpov stood better.

But by move 30, opinions were revised as Karpov's pieces were forced backward by Kasparov. As Karpov became short of time, there was a series of complex exchanges resulting in an ending with equal material.

But one of Karpov's pawns was too far advanced. In the adjourned position, Kasparov was set to win this pawn, leaving himself a pawn ahead in an easily won end-game.

Soviet Grandmaster Yuri Averbach, an acknowledged expert on such positions, said that in the adjourned position, "Karpov was helpless."

European Soccer Championship begins with France defending title

LONDON (AP) — The qualifying competition for the 1988 European Soccer Championship opens today with France starting the defence of its title in Reykjavik against Iceland, one of five games spread across the continent.

Between now and the end of next year, 116 matches embracing 32 nations will be played to find the seven teams joining host West Germany in the finals of a tournament traditionally rated as second only to the World Cup in international prestige.

French coach Henri Michel is in the process of rebuilding the team following its semifinal defeat at the World Cup in Mexico.

France has never managed to qualify for the final of the

European Championship and only took part in the 1986 tournament by virtue of hosting the tournament, which assured it of an automatic berth.

At least eight of Iceland's players are with professional clubs overseas, including Asgeir Sigurvinsson of Stuttgart and Anderlecht's Arnor Gudjonsson.

Wales, which narrowly missed qualifying for both the 1986 European Championship finals and this year's World Cup, meets Finland in Helsinki in the opening game in Group Six.

With Denmark and Czechoslovakia favourites to fight out the one qualifying place, Welsh manager Mike England knows his players cannot afford to slip up Wednesday against the weakest team in the group.

In Liverpool sharpshooter Ian Rush, Wales has one of Europe's most feared players, but will be without its other dangerous striker, Barcelona's Mark Hughes.

After its early exit at the World Cup, where it played in the toughest group, Scotland begins its campaign for a first ever place in the European Championship finals with a home game against Bulgaria in Group Seven and a new manager in Andy Roxburgh.

Bulgaria was a big disappointment in Mexico where it won few admirers with a dull, defensive style of play. Roxburgh was keeping his line-up under

wraps but hinted that Liverpool player-manager Kenny Dalglish would be among the starters.

Another Group Seven match takes place at the Heysel Stadium in Brussels, where group favourite Belgium takes on the Republic of Ireland.

Belgium, surprise World Cup semifinalists, will be without at least two of its lauded defenders.

Michel Renquin, the sweeper in Mexico, has been injured for several weeks while fullback Eric Gerets is also out with an injured rib. Star goalie Jean-Marie Pfaff hurt his knee last Saturday while playing for Bayern Munich and is rated extremely doubtful.

But there were no problems in midfield and attack where Philippe Desmet — leading scorer in the French League — and Erwin Vandenberghe were both set to play.

Three Irish players — Mark Lawrenson, Ronnie Whelan and Jim Beglin — return to the Heysel Stadium with bad memories of their last appearance there.

They were all members of the Liverpool side that lost to Juventus in the tragic 1985 European Champions Cup final when 39 people were killed in a fan stampede.

In Bucharest, Romania and Austria both hope to get off to a winning start in group one where Spain, runnerup to France four years ago, is favourite to go through.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

New Zealand team to climb Everest

WELLINGTON (R) — A New Zealand climbing team which has won last-minute permission to tackle the world's highest peak will make the ascent without oxygen or Sherpa native guides, a spokesman for the group said Tuesday. The three New Zealanders, together with an Australian and an American, got approval from the Nepalese government to climb Mount Everest via the difficult west ridge after a French expedition abandoned plans for an ascent. New Zealand Alpine Club official Rob Hall told Reuters.

Peugeot plans for Paris-Dakar race

PARIS (R) — Peugeot, who clinched the 1986 Motor Rally Constructors' Championship on Sunday with a double win in the Finnish 1,000 lakes event, said it was considering entering its 203 Turbo 16 cars in January's Paris-Dakar Overland Race. Peugeot's winning model, like other high-powered rally cars, will be barred from the 1987 world championship under new safety rules announced after the death of Finnish driver Henri Toivonen in the Corsica rally last May.

Commonwealth Games lose \$6 million

LONDON (R) — The 1986 Commonwealth Games boycotted by more than half the teams to protest Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's South Africa policy lost a total of \$4 million (\$6 million), games' chairman Robert Maxwell said Monday. Thirty-two of 58 Commonwealth countries and territories due to compete ordered their teams to withdraw at the last moment. But the boycott failed in its bid to make Mrs. Thatcher drop her opposition to tough economic sanctions against South Africa's white-led government over its apartheid policy of racial separation. The games held in Edinburgh, Scotland, ended on Aug. 2.

Herschel Walker scores 2 TDs

IRVING, Texas (AP) — NFL newcomer Herschel Walker, subbing for the injured Tony Dorsett, scored two touchdowns, including a 10-yard burst up the middle with 1:16 to play Monday night, to carry the Dallas Cowboys to a 31-28 victory over the New York Giants. Walker, one of the brightest USFL stars who last month signed a five-year, \$5-million contract with the Cowboys, capped a 72-yard drive with his run up the middle. He was pressed into duty because Dorsett, who sprained his left ankle in the first period, was held out of the second half.

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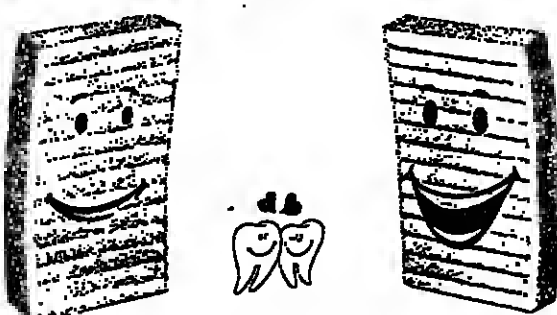
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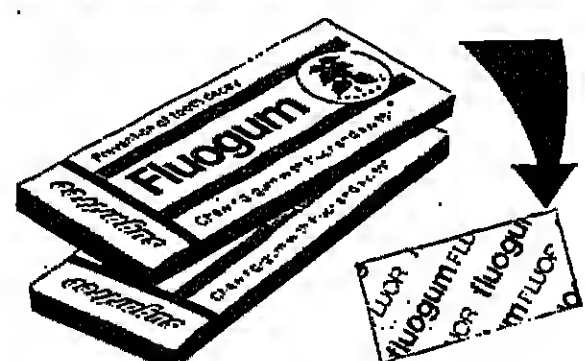
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Ryan stops Reds

NEW YORK (AP) — Nolan Ryan turned up the heat and cooled off Cincinnati's chances of catching the Houston Astros in the National League West.

Ryan struck out 10 during six shutout innings and combined with Charlie Kerfeld on a three-hitter Monday night as Houston beat the Reds 3-1.

The victory, the third straight for the Astros, gave them a nine-game lead over second-place Cincinnati.

In other NL games, Montreal routed New York 9-1, Pittsburgh got by St. Louis 3-2, Chicago beat Philadelphia 7-4, San Francisco defeated San Diego 4-3 and Los Angeles blanked Atlanta 7-0.



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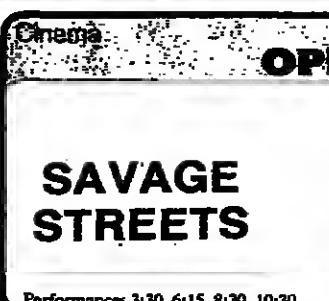
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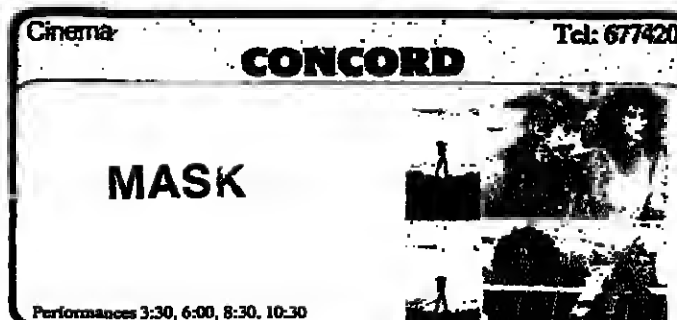
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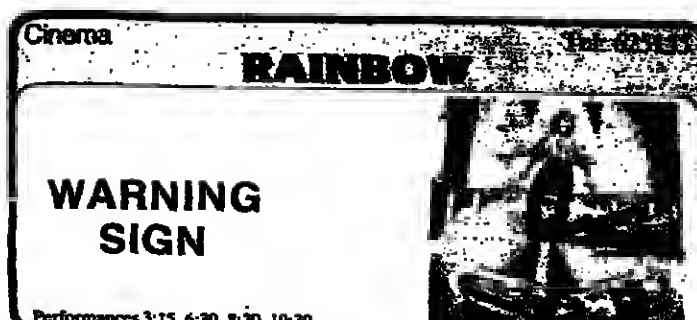
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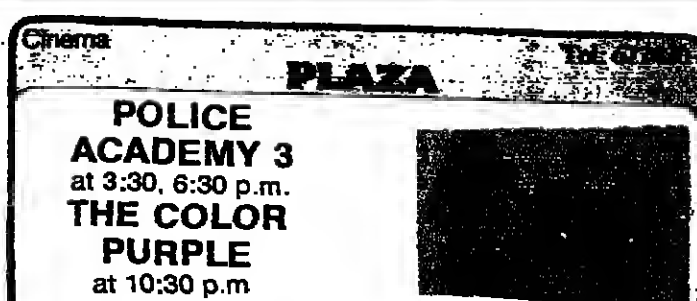
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LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One sterling	1.4870/80	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3826/31	Canadian dollars
	2.0645/55	West German marks
	2.3292/3302	Dutch guilders
	1.6835/45	Swiss francs
	42.74/79	Belgian francs
	6.7425/75	French francs
	1423.75/1424.75	Italian lire
	155.75/85	Japanese yen
	6.9425/75	Swedish crowns
	7.3550/600	Norwegian crowns
	7.8100/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	410.75/411.75	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices closed firm after a weak start on concern over the sharp falls in government bonds and Wall Street's earlier finish on Monday, dealers said. By 1430 GMT the FTSE 100 index was up 7.4 to 1,674.0 after 1,660.8.

Bargain hunting at the morning lows and shortage of stock squeezed prices higher during the session. But lack of follow through and August U.K. M-3 money supply figures at the upper end of some forecasts saw some shares ease from their best.

Government bonds on Tuesday gave up early gains on cheap buying to end about 3/4 point easier, but above the day's lows helped by the recent run of declines in U.S. bonds. The banks closed with double figure gains helped by reports of a broker's recommendation for the sector. Dealers said the approaching TSB flotation and the start of trading in Barclays shares on Wall Street stirred demand for the banks.

Barclays shares closed 10p higher at 509 while Midland and Natwest firmed 7p apiece to 579 and 559 respectively. Insurances showed modest gains with Abbey Life a penny firmer at 198 and Prudential steady at 909 ahead of results on Wednesday.

U.S. issues American Eagle

WEST POINT, New York (R) — The U.S. government made a well-timed entry into the international gold-coin market Monday by issuing the American Eagle, the first bullion coin to be minted in the United States in over 50 years.

Gold and another precious metal, platinum, have been soaring recently on heavy demand because of fears over political turmoil in South Africa, which supplies 60 per cent of the Western world's gold and 90 per cent of its platinum.

Gold bullion has moved above \$410 an ounce, though it was weaker Monday than last Friday. The main gold bullion coins currently traded are the Canadian Maple Leaf, the Chinese Panda Bear and the South African Kruggerand, which was the top seller until last year when the U.S. government banned its importation as a gesture against apartheid.

The American Eagle is designed to replace the Kruggerand and to compete with the Maple Leaf.

"If California can have a gold strike, so can West Point," said U.S. Treasury Secretary James

Baker Monday as he struck the first one-ounce American Eagle at the West Point Bullion Depository, one of several U.S. bullion stockpile centres.

The coin will be issued in four denominations: \$50 for one troy ounce, \$25 per half-ounce, \$10 per quarter-ounce and \$5 per one-tenth of an ounce.

However, the denominations are designed to give the appearance of legal tender as the price of the coins will be tied to the market price of gold.

U.S. Treasurer Katherine Ortega said the United States hopes to sell two million ounces of the gold coins during the first year. The coins will be available to the public by early November.

One side of the coins features the Augustus Saint-Gaudens design of Lady Liberty, last used on U.S. gold pieces that were minted in 1933. The reverse side, designed by Dallas artist Miley Busiek, features a male eagle carrying an olive branch to a nest containing a female eagle and young.

Ms. Donna Pope, director of the U.S. mint, noted in her speech before Mr. Baker struck the first

coin, that Americans interested in buying gold bullion coins previously had to invest in coins produced by other countries.

"Americans spent over \$1 billion in 1985 on coins made in other countries," Ms. Pope said, adding that the United States had never produced a gold bullion coin of investment grade until today.

Bullion dealers said they were pleased the United States was minting an investment grade coin. "This will be a successful product," predicted Mr. John Gruen, head of precious metal trading of Philipp Brothers, a unit of Salomon Brothers. "I will be happier trading a U.S. product as opposed to a coin minted in Canada or South Africa."

Gold closed sharply lower on the New York Commodity Exchange Monday, hit by selling by politically sensitive traders whose buying during the takeover of a U.S. airliner last Friday spurred the market to three-year highs.

Gold for delivery in September closed \$11.80 down at \$411. On Friday, the market for delivery in three months reached \$430, the highest since early 1983.

Central bankers discount possibilities of coordinated interest rate reductions

BASLE, Switzerland (R) — European central bankers said Monday night that expectations of a new round of interest rate cuts this month have faded in view of the better-than-expected economic performance of West Germany.

The Reagan administration has been pressing the West Germans and the Japanese for a rate cut soon to stimulate their economies and help reduce the massive U.S. trade deficit.

But strong growth in West Germany during the second quarter and a fall in unemployment in the United States had dampened talk of any interest rate cut soon, they said.

The officials, who declined to be identified, said the economic outlook had obviously improved since a meeting about eight weeks ago in Frankfurt, when Mr. Karl Otto Poehl and Mr. Paul Volcker, respectively the top central bankers in West Germany and the United States, seriously weighed the possibility of the coordinated rate cut.

"We are a little more relaxed, we feel more comfortable after seeing the new figures from the United States and Europe," one said. "After the summer holidays, the outlook is slightly more favourable."

They were speaking after a regular monthly meeting of top central bankers at the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), their last gathering before the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank in Washington.

It came at a crucial time, just after an unexpected weekend meeting between the Japanese and U.S. finance ministers, billed as a "get-acquainted chat" which left commercial bankers sensing something might be in the wind. It also came only three days

before the West German Bundesbank is due to decide on whether to yield to U.S. pressure to cut rates.

While the central bankers rarely decide on measures at the BIS, they can use it as an occasion to warn colleagues of forthcoming moves.

One central banking source said it was difficult to see why the Bundesbank should try to stimulate when growth in the country was already the highest of any major industrial country.

Economists said central bankers in Japan and West Germany face a dilemma on interest rates, wanting to help cut the U.S. trade deficit and prevent a further rapid fall in the dollar, but not at the risk of fresh inflation at home, especially now that oil prices have started to rise again.

Both countries refused to follow the U.S. discount rate cut on Aug. 20, which caused the dollar to slide to new lows near 2.00 marks. But Monday the dollar recovered to about 2.06, which economists said could take pressure off the Bundesbank.

While rumors in the financial markets and reports quoting unnamed government officials suggest such a move could come soon, many central bankers themselves are wary of giving in to the political pressure.

Mr. Pierre Langen, president of the Swiss National Bank,

warned colleagues last week against abandoning the key goal of eliminating inflation.

"It would be irresponsible to take the temporary disinflationary impact of cheaper oil as a pretext for directing monetary policy away from the goal of price stability," he said.

Washington wants the West Germans and Japanese, both enjoying massive trade surpluses, to increase domestic demand and grow less reliant on exports for growth.

Such steps, especially in the case of Japan, would help the United States reduce its burgeoning trade deficit, which has led to mounting protectionist sentiment in Congress.

At a news conference in Tokyo, Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said his unexpected meeting with U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker over the weekend brought no accord on interest rates cuts or foreign exchange intervention.

He also cast doubt on whether the Bank of Japan would be willing to consider cutting its discount rate from the current 3.5 per cent.

Excessive liquidity — the growing level of bank credit and money supply which threaten to rekindle inflation — was a major factor in setting interest rates, he said, and any fresh Japanese rate cut would have to be the last and come at an appropriate time.

Nissan opens new plant in U.K.

LONDON (R) — Nissan, Japan's second biggest carmaker, Monday unveiled a new factory in northeast England, offering job opportunities in a British unemployment black spot and placing yet another colony of Japanese enterprise in Europe.

It also announced it was bringing forward a planned \$450 million expansion that will mean the factory manufactures cars in Britain rather than merely assembling imported parts.

That will turn Nissan into a British domestic carmaker, freeing it from a voluntary restraint agreement which at present limits its imports of vehicles to Britain to 100,000 a year.

Economists expect difficult time for S. Arabian banks

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabia's commercial banks, once among the most profitable in the world, saw their earnings continue to slide during the first half of 1986 and economists believe the lean period will continue for at least a year.

Profits have been hit by the need to build up provisions against possible loan losses as the Middle East's economic downturn drives a number of companies to seek to put off debt payments.

But one economist said problem loans and the Middle East's economic decline had left too many banks chasing a limited number of customers.

Bahrain's Monetary Agency actively fostered the idea of mergers at the end of last year after a number of the island's banks saw their capital base eaten away by losses incurred after the Kuwaiti "Souk Al Manakh" stock market collapse in 1982.

The UAE saw a flurry of mergers in 1985, but there is still one bank for every 34,000 head of population.

The handling of Saudi Cairo's problems is probably the clearest indication yet that SAMA will step in to prevent a loss of confidence in the banking system, economists said.

The monetary agency is believed to have filtered nearly one billion riyals (\$265 million) in deposits to Saudi Cairo to shore up the bank.

Economists said Saudi Cairo — 60 per cent owned by Saudi nationals and 40 per cent by Egypt's Banque Du Caire — is still suffering from losses of 408 million riyals (\$110 million) incurred after speculation in precious metals in 1981 and 1982.

Only at the end of August did it publish 1985 accounts, delayed due to negotiations with SAMA, economists said.

The bank reported zero profit after 101.3 million riyals (\$27 million) in 1984, but was able to plough only 91.1 million riyals (\$24 million) into loan loss provisions, less than the 103.1 million (\$29 million) for 1984.

By giving a bank such as Saudi Cairo access to deposits, SAMA is effectively making a cash injection, economists said.

The deposits can be invested in the local money market where one-month funds earned up to 12 1/2 per cent during July.

But Saudi interest rates have since fallen sharply, with nine-month riyal deposits now earning only seven per cent.

Economists said this effectively undermines the effectiveness of SAMA's action to boost Saudi Cairo's earnings, while other banks will also find lower interest rates put more pressure on their profits.

Other commercial banks have had less dramatic problems, but first half earnings reported during the past few weeks showed there has been no let-up in pressure.

Bank Al Jazira, 65 per cent owned by Saudi nationals and 35 per cent by the National Bank of Pakistan, saw its first-half profits fall 63.4 per cent. Albank Alsaudi Alhollandi, a joint venture with Algemeine Bank Nederland, registered a 50 per cent drop.

Of other joint-ventures, Saudi American Bank, 40 per cent owned by the U.S. Citybank, registered a 37.5 per cent first half profits drop, while Saudi British Bank, 40 per cent owned by the British Bank of the Middle East, declined 23.6 per cent.

In addition to a string of well publicised reschedulings of debt incurred by Middle East companies, bank attempts to win repayment of overdue loans through the courts have been far from successful.

A series of judgments under Islamic law have gone against banks since the concept of interest payments is not recognised in Saudi Arabia.

Economists said there seems little prospect of changes to the legal system, in contrast to the UAE, where pressure from bankers has led to the formation of a government committee to review interest rate laws.

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YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 10, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Quick action will follow whatever changes and new arrangements that you wish to make. You would be wise to make sure that others are informed of your plans.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) By using a different attitude you can easily get out of some debt to another. Get the situation cleared up.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) During the day you can better comprehend how your friends operate and learn from them.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Do whatever will bring more understanding between family ties and outsiders. Handle public matters well.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Look to a good friend for ideas that can help you to produce more in the future.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Monetary matters would be wise to handle, but get advice first. Have a nice evening with your mate.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Listen to the views of a superior before you come to an agreement. The evening looks fine for fun.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You can improve a personal relationship this evening. First you should improve things with fellow workers.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Although business and property affairs have you preoccupied, take time to plan future recreations.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Get business interests handled even though you are more concerned with personal matters.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Try to incorporate new ideas into your daily routines with the assistance of influential people.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) A kind person will help you to aid a friend who comes to you for assistance. Business associates are helpful.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) The aspects are good today, so get out in the business world and accomplish as much as you can.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be able to meet many influential personalities who will be eager to help him, or her, get ahead in the world. Your progeny will also have fine talents and can make the most of this good luck wisely. Be sure to educate so your child can hold his, or her, own.

THE Daily Crossword

by Melvin Kornworthy

ACROSS

1 Not so many

6 Police recruit

10 Puerto

14 Reserve

15 Lute

16 Lat. abbr.

17 Old-fashioned

18 Clonish word

19 Baseball number

20 Holy one; abbr.

21 Vase

22 Print loose

23 Bore's river

24 Dead tree

25 Four-legged

26 Great

28 Make changes

29 Discontinue

30 Pub offering

31 Kilo; abbr.

32 Auctioneer's word

33 — boy!

34 Fraud subject

35 Jack-in-the-pulpit for example

36 Oregon Trail city

37 Foreman

38 Br. coin

39 Dry for one

40 Brit. soldier

41 Give up office

42 De — (elegant)

43 My Lagune

44 Males

45 Construction place

46 Wren out

47 Rue — Paris

48 Headland

49 Poplar

50 Vase

51 Opening

52 Affirmative

DOWN

1 One of the top

2 Part of OED

3 Vine fruit

4 Inhabitant

5 Cardinal

6 Of the top

7 — of

8 America

9 Crooked

10 Eggs

11 Crested bird

12 Loner's word

13 Bulging

14 Clonish

15 Result; abbr.

16 Pro

17 Layers

18 Leg parts

19 Sarcophagus

20 Letter from Greece

21 Fanciful

22 Shores

23 Long

24 Tensile million

25 — of

26 USSR people

27 Arthur of TV

28 Window part

29 Print

30 First details

31 Arthur of TV

32 Vigoda of TV

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

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Peanuts

EXCUSE ME... WHAT DID YOU SAY YOUR NAME IS?

TAPIoca PUDDING... MY DAD GAVE ME MY NAME... HE'S IN LICENSING...

HE SAID I'M GOING TO BE ON GREETING CARDS, LUNCH BOXES, TV AND EVERYTHING!

BUT, OBVIOUSLY, NO BEER COMMERCIALS... OBVIOUSLY

Mutt 'n' Jeff

MY FAMILY TREE CAN BE TRACED BACK TO THE STONE AGE! THAT WAS THE AGE WHEN A MAN SAW SOMETHING HE WANTED HE JUST UP AND TOOK IT!

YOUR RELATIVES STILL DO THAT!

WE ARE ALL DESCENDED FROM BIRDS OR MONKEYS!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? NOPE

NO FEATHERS GROWING ON YOU!

Andy Capp

I DON'T REALLY LIKE RICE PUDDING, AUNT FLORIE

OKAY, DEAR, I'LL MAKE YOU SOMETHING ELSE

WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE, LAD, I WAS DRY BREAD TO EAT!

TOH! TCH! STILL YOU'VE GOT IT MADE NOW THAT YOU'RE LIVING WITH AUNTIE FLO, EH?

I DETEST MOUTHY KIDS

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

HARRIS

"I wonder how much it would cost to buy a new reflection?"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

WONNK

ZAHE

TEYQUI

Cragou

Why not also take my house and car?

THAT NEXT-DOOR NEIGHBOR WHO'S ALWAYS BORROWING YOUR STUFF WILL TAKE ANYTHING FROM YOU EXCEPT THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: DOUSE IDIOT ABSORB SHEKEL

Answer: What a self-employed person is never apt to do—DISLIKE THE BOSS

Gorbachev: Summit senseless without arms control progress

MOSCOW (R) — Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev has said a second summit with President Reagan would be senseless unless the superpowers could move forward on issues of arms control.

Painting a gloomy picture of developments over the past 10 months, Mr. Gorbachev said there had been no progress on the arms front since he first met Mr. Reagan in Geneva last November. He said U.S. military programmes could be construed as the material and psychological preparation for a world war, adding: "People are naturally beginning to ask themselves, what is happening? Does this all mean that America is going to war?" Mr. Gorbachev's remarks, carried on Soviet television Monday night and issued by the official TASS news agency, were in reply to questions from the editor-in-chief of the Czechoslovak Communist Party newspaper Rude Prava.

His comments were almost entirely devoted to arms control issues separating Washington and Moscow and their bearing on a possible second summit. Mr. Gorbachev and Mr. Reagan agreed in Geneva to meet again in the United States this year and in the Soviet Union in 1987.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz held talks in New York next week to try to set a date for a November or December summit.

"There is no sense in holding a meeting for 'nothing'," Mr. Gorbachev said. "If one piece (the Reagan administration's post-Geneva policies) together, the resulting picture is alarming."

He listed Mr. Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), or "Star Wars" Programme, U.S. anti-satellite weapons tests, congressional appropriations for binary chemical weapons and Mr. Reagan's decision to scrap the SALT-2 treaty this year.

Mr. Gorbachev also denounced U.S. policy toward Nicaragua, Libya and southern Africa and the current NATO military manoeuvres in Europe, asking: "And doing this right near the time they expect to have a second summit with us?"

The Kremlin leader contrasted U.S. actions with the Soviet nuclear test moratorium, in effect since Aug. 6, 1985, and again sharply criticised Washington for refusing to join it.

"Since the Geneva meeting we have not moved one inch closer to an arms reduction agreement, despite all the efforts of the USSR," he declared.

But Mr. Gorbachev stopped short of slamming the door on another meeting with Mr. Reagan, whose term in office ends in January 1989.

"We attach too much importance to the time factor to simply decide to stand still for two-and-a-half years," he said.

"We are in favour of the holding of a Soviet-American summit meeting, a meeting that would be marked by considerable headway towards the solution of at least one or two problems of international security," he added.

S. Korea to attend Japan talks after Fujio sacking

SEOUL (R) — South Korea Tuesday reversed an earlier decision and said it would attend a bilateral foreign ministers' meeting with Japan Wednesday as scheduled.

The sudden reversal followed Monday's news from Tokyo that Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone had fired his outspoken nationalist education minister, Masayuki Fujio, whose controversial remarks about Tokyo's colonisation of Korea sparked a diplomatic row with Seoul.

The Seoul government told Tokyo Monday that it was postponing the ministerial talks in protest at Mr. Fujio's claim that Korea was partly responsible for its 1910 annexation by Japan because the move was based on an agreement between the two countries.

Notifying Japanese Ambassador Kyosha Mikanagi of the postponement, Foreign Minister Choi Kwang-soo said Mr. Fujio's statement had caused the most serious diplomatic rift between the countries since relations were normalised in 1965, 20 years after Korea gained independence.

But a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday his government appreciated Mr. Nakasone's expression of regret about Mr. Fujio's remarks and his swift decision to dismiss the education minister.

"The government decided to go ahead with the planned talks between the foreign ministers," he added.

The spokesman said the Japanese ambassador visited Minister Choi late Monday night to inform him of Mr. Fujio's sacking and a Japanese government statement that the minister had contravened a basic Japanese policy of seeking international peace and friendship with neighbouring countries.

Earlier Tuesday Mr. Choi told leaders of the ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP) that the government was trying to make the best of summit talks between Mr. Nakasone and President Chun Doo Hwan later this month to improve bilateral relations "on a new and greater dimension."

Mr. Nakasone is due to visit Seoul to attend the opening ceremonies of the Asian Games. Government officials had hinted that if Japan did not censure Mr. Fujio, Mr. Nakasone's trip could be scrapped.

Japan decides to join U.S. SDI programme

TOKYO (Agencies) — Japan Tuesday decided to join President Reagan's "Star Wars" research programme, saying it hoped the move would strengthen Western defences and reap technological benefits.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Masaharu Gotoda told a press conference Tokyo would begin negotiations with the United States soon on details of an agreement to allow Japanese private companies and government laboratories to participate in the controversial project.

Britain, West Germany and Israel have so far signed pacts for research cooperation in the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI).

In joining them, the Japanese government has rejected opposition charges that Tokyo's participation in the programme will run counter to a 1964 parliamentary resolution calling for the peaceful use of space.

It also ignored criticism that the project contravenes Japan's avowed policy of not possessing, producing or bringing nuclear weapons into the country.

In a statement issued after Tuesday's cabinet meeting, Mr. Gotoda defended the decision to participate, emphasising that it was in line with Japan's basic policy of seeking stable relations between the East and West through a drastic cut in nuclear arms and the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Gotoda said Japan accepted the U.S. description of the controversial research project as one aimed at developing an anti-nuclear, strategic deterrent. By joining, Tokyo will improve its military ties with the United States and could also reap great benefits by using its participation in the project as a springboard to develop new technologies outside the military sphere, Mr. Gotoda said.

Japan has intensively studied the technical, strategic and political implications of the project since it was invited to take part in March last year.

It sent three fact-finding missions to the United States and held six ministerial conferences, including one this morning just prior to the cabinet meeting.

Political analysts said Japan's approach to the programme seemed to differ from that of West Germany, which limited its participation to private sector companies and excluded the government.

The leading opposition party on Tuesday criticised the cabinet decision to participate in the "Star Wars" project and demanded that it be reversed.

The Socialist Party, in a statement issued after the cabinet voted Tuesday to take part in the project, said the decision links Japan with "the most highly advanced part of (President Ronald) Reagan's global strategy."

The statement also said Japan's participation would be an outright breach of a diet (parliament) resolution opposing the deployment of weapons in space, which would be inevitable under the Strategic Defence Initiative.

Most wanted rebel leader hurt in Sri Lanka attack

JAFFNA, Sri Lanka (R) — The most wanted Tamil rebel in Sri Lanka was wounded and four others killed in a mortar barrage from government troops under siege in a fort here, military officials said Tuesday.

They said Sathasivam Krishnakumar, alias Kittu, the Jaffna commander of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), was wounded Monday night when troops fired eight 60 mm mortar shells at the rebels.

LTTE, the most powerful of the groups fighting for an independent Tamil state on the island, is led by Velupillai Prabhakaran from the south Indian city of Madras.

"Kittu, was wounded in the leg and the vehicle he was riding at the time was also damaged," a senior military official in Jaffna told Reuters. He had no other details.

Government troops, who are bottled up in a 300-year-old Dutch fort in Jaffna, 330 kilometres north of Colombo, had been under constant mortar fire from nearby rebel positions since Saturday. Two soldiers were killed on Sunday and two others wounded Monday during the continuous attack, officials said.

The fort is the main military base in the northern Jaffna peninsula, a rebel stronghold, and has been under sporadic attack since an infantry battalion was installed there last year.

The eight metre high walls of the star-shaped fort bear the scars of the guerrilla attacks and a 250-year-old church, the barracks, an office and the

officers' mess have received direct hits.

Disappearances reported

Meanwhile Amnesty International said Wednesday that several hundred people have disappeared in Sri Lanka after reportedly being seized by security forces over the past 20 months and that many were shot or died after torture.

The independent London-based human-rights group said in an 89-page report, entitled "Sri Lanka — 'Disappearances' — that most of the victims were young Tamil men."

Amnesty International, which holds the Nobel Peace Prize, said that in the 1971 insurrection and its aftermath an estimated 18,000 young men and women were detained and that some still remain unaccounted for.

It said it received no further reports of disappearances until 1979 when three cases were reported.

But it said that since 1984, disappearances have been reported with increasing frequency from the northern districts of Jaffna, Mannar and Vavuniya and, especially in the last 18 months, from the Batticaloa, Trincomalee and Amparai districts in the east and north east.

It said most of the armed confrontations between the Tamil Tigers and other Tamil guerrilla groups and government forces now take place in those three east and north east districts.

Gerasimov says solution possible in Daniloff case

MOSCOW (AP) — Foreign Ministry Spokesman Gennady Gerasimov on Tuesday accused U.S. officials of using the jailing of reporter Nicholas Daniloff to spoil superpower relations, but said a "mutual solution" to the case could be found.

Mr. Gerasimov declined, however, to say what kind of arrangement could be made to free Daniloff.

The 52-year-old reporter for U.S. News and World Report magazine has been held in Moscow's Lefortovo Prison for 10 days. On Sunday, he was formally charged with espionage.

His wife, Ruth, said she was promised she could visit Daniloff on Tuesday for the third time since he was detained in a Moscow park after a Soviet acquaintance handed him a closed package that was found to contain maps marked secret and military photographs.

On Monday, the government newspaper Izvestia expanded the allegations against Daniloff to include accusations that he collected intelligence on Afghanistan during his 5½ years as U.S. News bureau chief. It attempted to link him with a U.S. diplomat who was expelled last year on spying allegations.

Daniloff has denied the espionage charges, and his wife called the Izvestia article "preposterous." She said her husband was framed by the KGB in retaliation for the Aug. 23 arrest in New York of a Soviet United Nations employee charged with spying.

At a news conference by Soviet cultural figures Tuesday, Mr. Gerasimov was asked to comment on U.S. President Ronald Reagan's warning that Daniloff's detention could become a "major

obstacle" in U.S.-Soviet talks and reports that U.S. officials were considering retaliation against Soviet officials in the United States.

"Mr. Daniloff's case should not negatively influence Soviet-American relations," Mr. Gerasimov said.

"I am convinced of this and if some people in the United States want to establish a link and punish some Soviet scientists, artists, musicians or others, it is only a pretext for those who want to spoil Soviet-U.S. relations," he said.

Mr. Reagan said the United States will not agree to a trade involving the arrested Soviet, Gennady Zakharov.

But when asked if a diplomatic arrangement to gain the reporter's release was possible, Mr. Gerasimov said:

"U.S.-Soviet relations should not be held hostage to this case of Daniloff. It both sides make serious efforts, I think it would be possible to find a mutual solution to this question."

Mr. Gerasimov declined to elaborate when asked what kind of solution he had in mind.

"I only said that if both sides were interested in the solution of this question, they could find a mutual solution," he said. "That is all I am saying."

There has been no word on when Daniloff might be brought to trial, but the Soviet press has already started labelling him a spy.

Meanwhile Zakharov has been held without bail in New York since his arrest in a subway station on Aug. 23. Under federal law, any defendant held without bail must be indicted within 10 days of his initial appearance before a magistrate or granted a hearing, assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas Roche said Monday.

Nicaraguan leader sees danger of regional conflict

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — Nicaragua's neighbours could become involved in an armed conflict if they allow their territory to be used to train contra rebels, a Sandinista leader says.

"Bullets do not ask for visas," said Commander Bayardo Arce in a weekend interview with the Associated Press.

Arce, one of nine directors of the Sandinista National Liberation Front, said Central America has taken one step closer to regional armed conflict with the recent U.S. congressional approval of \$100 million in new U.S. aid to the contras and plans to provide military training for rebels.

"If the armed forces of Costa Rica or Honduras are along the border and we are chasing the contras in the area or there is a direct invasion by the United States, those countries could be involved in the war too," he said. "We hope those countries show some common sense."

The site where U.S. advisers will train the contras has not been decided.

Although the rebels are known to operate in Honduras and Costa Rica, which border Nicaragua on the north and south, both countries — as well as Panama and El Salvador — have said they would not allow training on their territory.

The additional U.S. aid "will worsen tension in Central America," Arce said. "The aid package will not change the course of the war, but it will increase the contras' capacity for terrorism aimed at economic targets."

Nicaraguan officials estimate 3,000 to 4,000 rebels are operating in Nicaragua, most of them in small groups along the northern regions near Honduras, and that about 5,000 are based in Honduras.

Spokesmen for the FDN claim the organisation has about 18,000 combatants, with about half of them operating in Nicaragua at any given time. Other analysts believe the figure to be exaggerated.

The contras' main activities in their 4-year-old fight against the Sandinistas have been ambushes and hit-and-run attacks or destruction of crops and other economically strategic targets.

The Nicaraguan army has removed civilians from many of the more affected areas in the north and established additional military bases for its own special forces.

"We have more technical resources," Arce said.

He said he did not expect a large increase in the contras' force as a result of the additional U.S. aid.

The former guerrilla commander said the main threat to Nicaragua and the region's stability "is the direct participation of U.S. soldiers who will now be in war territory and the control the Central Intelligence Agency will have over the course of war."

"We think the United States government has not discounted the idea of a direct invasion, but we also think the United States must weigh seriously the effects of an invasion. The nations of the region will not sit passively while we are being invaded."

Meanwhile a rebel commander has accused the Nicaraguan government of issuing weapons to foreign volunteers, making them targets for contra rebels.

"They are part of the enemy. We have warned them not to go into the war zones or carry weapons. We cannot be responsible," said Enrique Bermudez, the commander of the largest rebel-fighting force and one of seven directors of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, or FDN.

Troops storm Norway in NATO exercise

SANDEFJORD, Norway (R) — NATO forces launched a big mock invasion of southern Norway Tuesday under the eye of Soviet frigates and submarines.

Nearly 10,000 Marines from Britain, The Netherlands and the United States stormed narrow beaches near Sandefjord, about 110 kilometres south west of Oslo, as part of a huge "Northern Wedding '86" exercise.

The manoeuvres, involving 50,000 North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) air, sea and land forces, are designed to test the alliance's ability to move troops and supplies quickly to Norway in times of crisis or war.

Invading forces, charging the rocky shoreline from an armada of landing craft, will engage some 25,000 Norwegian troops later this week in a simulated battle for control of southern Norway.

Norwegian army officers said it was the biggest Western exercise in southern Norway in 34 years and NATO's largest naval operation in eight years.

NATO intelligence officers said Soviet monitoring of Northern

Wedding had risen to unprecedented levels.

"This level of interest is the result of the remarkably large scale of the exercise," they said in a statement issued here.

Ten Soviet intelligence-gathering vessels, three Krivak-class frigates and two submarines have been observed following some 250 allied ships as they moved in convoy across the North Sea from Scotland to Norway, the statement said.

The Soviet Union has condemned the exercise as a provocation and unwarranted show of Western military might.

Norwegian Lt.-Gen. Egil Schibye rejected this criticism at a briefing, saying the exercise was designed to discourage the Warsaw Pact from ever attempting an assault on southern Norway.

He said military control of southern Norway and Denmark was essential to any power seeking control of the strategically vital entrance to the Baltic.

British officers participating in the exercise said the key to Western Europe's defence in time of war could hinge on NATO's ability to control waters between Norway and Denmark, thereby containing Warsaw Pact warships stationed in the Baltic.

Ships for the naval phase of the exercise have been sent from Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, Norway, The Netherlands, the United States and West Germany.

Three warships from France, scheduled to exercise alongside NATO vessels, were suddenly withdrawn from the manoeuvres last week for operational reasons, NATO officials said.

They declined to elaborate, but British military sources said the ships had probably been sent to the Eastern Mediterranean in response to the bombing deaths of three French soldiers in a U.N. peace-keeping force in southern Lebanon.

France, although not a member of NATO's military structure, frequently exercises alongside NATO forces to improve military coordination.

The exercise said about 1,450 people were arrested in Sind and government sources have said a total of around 6,000 were detained through the country.

However, Mr. Shah said in a statement: "This magnanimous gesture of the government should not be misunderstood as the government is prepared to deal firmly with any future interference with law."

Miss Bhutto, daughter of executed Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, was detained for planning to address an Independence Day rally in defiance of a ban on public meetings.

Bhutto blames government for violence after arrests

KARACHI (R) — Pakistan opposition leader Benazir Bhutto, freed from detention, has blamed the government of President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq for the violence that followed her Aug. 14 arrest.

Speaking to reporters after she regained her freedom Monday night, Miss Bhutto, who was arrested with thousands of others, said the violence that took at least 19 lives flared because there were no opposition leaders left at liberty to guide her supporters.

"It was the government's mistake," she said. "We were peaceful and our agitation was peaceful. Our movement for elections will remain peaceful."

She added that she would ally before deciding to launch a new wave of protest. She said any new agitation would be peaceful.

The chief minister of Sind province, Ghous Ali Shah, Monday released all those arrested in the province for protesting Miss Bhutto's detention.

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Miss Bhutto, daughter of executed Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, was detained for planning to address an Independence Day rally in defiance of a ban on public meetings.



Fossils found in Chinese cave

PEKING (AP) — Archaeologists have found the fossilised remains of more than 30 species of animals in a cave in southern China, the official Xinhua News Agency said Monday. The fossils include remains of the Stegodon, an ancient elephant-like mammal that lived more than 10,000 years ago, and remains of pandas, deer, monkeys, cows and dogs, Xinhua said. The find was unusual because of the variety of fossils found, Xinhua quoted local archaeologists as saying. The cave, which is 2,000 yards long, is in Wuxuan county in Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region. Researchers have not yet determined how old the remains are or why they all are in the same cave. Archaeologists also have found broken pottery and stone axes in the cave, the report said.

Mrs. Sadat quits teaching job

COLUMBIA, South Carolina (AP) — Jihan Sadat, the widow of slain Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, will not teach a course at the University of South Carolina this semester, the school has announced.

Mrs. Sadat, 52, considered a distinguished visiting professor at the school, was to begin her fourth semester of teaching a course on "Women in Egyptian Culture," the university said. A statement from the university gave no reason for the departure.

"Mrs. Sadat informed us today that she would not teach at Carolina this semester," said James B. Holderman, the president of the university. "I have accepted her decision with deep disappointment."

Infant sacrificed to please goddess

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — Two women kidnapped a 28-day-old infant in northern India and killed him as a sacrifice to please a Hindu goddess so they would be "blessed" with children, a newspaper reported Tuesday.

Two women of the "untouchable" caste kidnapped the male baby from another lower caste household on Sept. 4 and then performed the sacrifice, the Times of India reported. The two women did not have any children and were asked by a person practising witchcraft to offer blood to a local god, the report said. The crime occurred in Jalmuna village in Hindu-dominated Haryana state neighbouring New Delhi. The two women were arrested and have been charged with murder.

Killer crocodile snatches sleeping camper

DARWIN, Australia (R) — A crocodile ate a sleeping camper outside a North Australian fishing village, leaving only his severed legs behind, police said Tuesday. The legs were found Monday and traps were set in the McArthur River at the village of Borroloola, 800 kilometres south east of Darwin, to catch the killer crocodile.

"There's a crocodile known to be in that area, although details are sketchy and we don't know for certain if it's the same one that carried out the attack," police Sergeant Mark MacAdie said, adding that a man was bitten on the arm by a small crocodile while swimming in the area last year. Darwin crocodile researcher Graham Webb told reporters the protected estuarine crocodiles, which grow to up to seven metres long, could be more aggressive than usual as their breeding season was approaching.

Groom dies after leaving wedding party

BISMARCK, North Dakota (AP) — A groom who complained of chest pains was taken from his wedding dance to a hospital, where he died of an apparent heart attack. Earlier in the day, Bundy had married Rose Sigvaldsen, Bundy, 46, had gone outside for air during the wedding dance at the Knights of Columbus Club, said Club Manager Arlene Rupp. He complained of chest pains and family members took him to the hospital, she said. After being told Bundy would not be returning to the dance, the band and most of the guests left, but a small group of friends remained and awaited news, Ms. Rupp said.

"They decided to do that rather than all running to the hospital," she said. They later realised that Bundy had died, Ms. Rupp said. "We were all very shocked. I just can't believe it happened," she said.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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EACH TRICK IN ITS TIME

Neither vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
♠ 643
♥ A52
♦ KJ943
♣ K3

WEST EAST
♠ A7 ♠ 108852
♥ QJ884 ♥ 107
♦ 62 ♦ 10875
♣ KJ52 ♣ A7

SOUTH
♠ KQJ
♥ K63
♦ AQ
♣ Q10964

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 2 NT Pass
3 NT Pass 4 NT Pass
Opening lead: Queen of ♠

Before you play to the first trick, plan your whole campaign. By trick two or three, it could be too late to recover.

North-South reached three no trump in routine fashion. Because of his fair five-card suit, North was on the borderline between a raise to two or three no trump; he chose the conservative action, but found his partner with enough to go on to game.

West led the queen of hearts, and

obviously declarer could not afford to win the trick in dummy — the ace of hearts was the only entry to the diamond suit. But should South duck the first trick?

Only if he has a desire to commit suicide. By giving the defenders an early heart trick, declarer exposes himself to the possible loss of three club tricks and a spade in addition to the heart he has given up — down one. He must win in hand and go about cashing his diamond suit by unblocking the ace-queen in hand.

A careless declarer would cross to the ace of hearts to run his diamonds, but that would bring his trick total to only seven. When he now tries to establish a couple of spade tricks, West will be able to take enough heart and club tricks for a two-trick defeat.

Declarer must set up his two spade tricks after freeing the table's diamonds but before releasing the ace of hearts. After cashing his high diamonds, he must lead the king of spades and, if the defenders hold up, continue with the queen. Once he has driven out the ace of spades, or once he has collected his two spade tricks, it is safe to cross to the table with the ace of hearts to cash up diamonds and claim his contract.